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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Who do you believe is telling the truth on the \$190-million power purchase agreement, Gov. Benigno Fitial or CUC chief Alan Fletcher?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION



President Barack Obama is banking on a massive get-out-the-vote operation and state-by-state shades of economic improvement to maintain his apparent polling edge.

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WORLD



Two scientists from different generations won the Nobel Prize in medicine for groundbreaking discovery that cells in the body can be reprogrammed into completely different kinds.

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FOCUS



As the Afghan war began its 12th year, fears loom that the country will again fracture along ethnic lines once international combat forces leave by the end of 2014.

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Integration of green energy in \$190.8M PPA unknown

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Despite the Fitial administration's assurance it will still pursue renewable energy projects to lower utility costs for consumers, it has not conducted an analysis on, and ignored warnings of "roadblocks" to, integrating alternative energy into the no-bid \$190.8-million power purchase agreement that is now among the subjects of the first impeachment hearings in CNMI history.

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CNMI public schools sans vice principals

► Administrators, counselors now teaching classes

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Several public schools in the CNMI are operating without vice principals this school year even as a number of administrators and counselors are handling regular classes—all because there is not enough money to hire more classroom teachers, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

School principals confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday the lack of vice principals and their new multi-tasking duties, describing the whole situation as "very challenging" since classes opened last month.

In a normal school setup, students receive guidance and support from school administrators—principals and vice principals—along with school counselors. Each position has specific tasks to perform for the growth and progress of students.

Sablan said that since PSS' resources became scarce,

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CHC fiasco results in release of pregnant inmates

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center's closure of its clinics, including those that provide non-

emergency prenatal care, has had an unexpected side effect: the release of pregnant inmates and their placement under house arrest.

Superior Court Associate

Judge David A. Wiseman ordered yesterday the immediate release of two pregnant inmates from the Department of Corrections after the government expressed concern that pregnant

inmates cannot receive appropriate prenatal care.

The government also disclosed that the department does not have the proper nursery or separate facility that would be needed to house a newborn during a period of bonding between

the mother and child.

Wiseman said that inmates Arinna Reiong and Norna Tipingeni will be placed under house arrest and they shall be confined to the physical boundaries of their homes.

See CHC on Page 4



'THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE'

Members of the U.S. Army carry the casket of U.S. Army Specialist Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan to her final resting place at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday afternoon. Her family said they are proud of Sablan for joining the Army "to help fight for the nation." Inset, her parents receive an American flag from the Army. See story on Page 2

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



9 NMC students awarded Businesswoman of the Year scholarships. PAGE 5
Ex-CAFD president pleads guilty to embezzlement. PAGE 6

Local

‘A great soldier, a sweet person’ is laid to rest

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

“She joined the military to help fight for our nation and we are all very proud of her for doing that. She’s very young and she’s supposed to turn only 24 years old this Saturday,” a teary-eyed Frances Mafnas said, moments after her niece and goddaughter, U.S. Army Specialist Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan, was laid to rest at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday afternoon.

Sablan, the eldest of five children, passed away in her barracks room in Fort Hood, Texas

on Sept. 20. She was 23.

As of yesterday, the circumstances surrounding her passing are still under investigation.

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Erica Mafnas, 31, said she last spoke to her cousin, Sablan, on the phone over a month ago and that she will miss her “laughs and smiles.”

“Before coming here, I spoke to her captain last week and he described her as a ‘silent giant.’ She’s quiet but she does her job very well and accurate. The captain said if he has 200 Sablans then his job would be much easier. The captain said she’s a

great soldier. For me she’s the sweetest person you could ever meet,” the U.S. Coast Guard petty officer 1st class said.

Remy Mafnas, another aunt of the late U.S. Army specialist, said her niece had three faces—smiling, giggling, and funny faces. She said her former classmates described her niece as someone “who turns negative into a positive” and a “peacemaker.”

“She’s a sweet person, a sweet girl. She’s very loved because of her sweetness and kind heart,” the aunt added.

A large crowd attended Sablan’s funeral Mass at Mount

Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa and her interment at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday.

On Friday, her family, relatives and friends held a candlelight vigil to welcome the arrival of her remains to Saipan around 1am.

Sablan served in Iraq in 2010, her family said. Sablan’s awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Army Service Ribbon, according to a statement from Fort Hood, Texas.

She entered active-duty service in October 2009 as an automated

logistical specialist. She was assigned to the 565th Quartermasters Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Hood, since February 2012.

Another burial

On Monday, another CNMI son was buried at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Former U.S. Army sergeant, Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero, passed away on Sept. 23 in Tennessee. Before he died, he donated seven of his organs.

Deleon Guerrero’s sister, Lani

Deleon Guerrero, said yesterday that contrary to other family members’ earlier statements, her brother was a sergeant when he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, not a specialist. She also said her brother suffered from AVM or arteriovenous malformation, and not aneurism, as the family earlier said.

He received an Afghanistan campaign medal with two campaign stars. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in May this year.

Deleon Guerrero and Sablan’s deaths bring to 19 the number of CNMI sons and daughters serving in the U.S. military who have lost their lives since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Rota, Tinian health centers get new resident directors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. did not renew the contract of Edward Maratita as acting resident director of Rota Health Center, while appointing yesterday William Cing as new chief of the Tinian Health Center.

Maratita confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta sent him a notice on Sept. 25 notifying him about the non-renewal of his contract effective Oct. 6. In the letter, Babauta cited Public Law 16-51, which requires a resident director to have at a minimum a bachelor’s degree and at least five years’

experience on the job.

Babauta named Sydie Taisacan as acting resident director for the Rota Health Center.

Maratita was appointed acting resident director for the Rota center prior to the corporation’s takeover. He replaced former director Crispin Ayuyu who was fired by the Rota Mayor’s Office when the center was still under the municipality’s control.

Maratita conceded that he doesn’t have the minimum educational qualification for the post but cited his numerous experiences. In less than a year of serving the Rota Health Center, Maratita said he managed to solve important issues including the nurses’ unpaid salaries and

the immediate replacement of key equipment and supplies.

The Rota center has over 40 employees, including two doctors, two registered nurses, three licensed practical nurses, and eight nursing assistants. The rest are support and administrative staff. The center had 52 personnel last year.

Maratita said the center is still short of nurses and housekeeping staff but hiring new ones may be problematic due to the difficult financial situation of the corporation.

Cing, meanwhile, replaces acting resident director Freddy Hofschneider for the Tinian Health Center.

Babauta said that Cing was selected for the position because of his impressive credentials and experience.

Prior to graduating from Hawaii Pacific University with a bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Management, including post-graduate studies at the Northern Marianas College, University of Guam, and San Jose State University, Cing was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army and was awarded two U.S. Army commendation medals and the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal for distinguished service.

Additionally, Cing worked for the Public School System for many years as a guidance counselor, teacher, vice principal, and principal.

He also held the position of executive director and then commissioner of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission. He served as Northern Marianas College Tinian Campus administrator and as chief executive officer for the Municipality of Tinian and Aguigan.

“Mr. Cing’s vast experience and strong local ties to the island of Tinian make him the ideal resident director to lead the Tinian Health Center into the future,” added Babauta.



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Day of Unity marks NMI's progress vs domestic violence

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

For the first time, the CNMI yesterday observed the Day of Unity, a part of the monthlong awareness campaign against domestic violence that is set to become the signature activity for the Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Scores of individuals from all walks of life gathered at the Garapan Central Park to celebrate peace and unity and, at

the same time, remember those who lost their lives due to domestic violence.

Yesterday's event, organized by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force, involved three parts. The first were cultural performances by the Kodanka Island Warriors, Pacific Flowers, Umang Glee Club, Sole'Dees, Saipan Music and Dance, and the Alana'ia Polynesian Entertainment.

The other two parts were the Men's Walk Against Domestic Violence led by the Department of Public Safety and other prominent male officials in the community, and the candlelight vigil that culminated the half-day event.

Angel Nimwes, committee chair for the Domestic Violence Awareness Month, said the Day of Unity aims to acknowledge the progress that has been made in the move to end domestic violence within the islands.

The celebration of Day of

Unity, Nimwes said, is "fitting" owing to the different cultures and ethnic groups that comprise the island community.

"[The] CNMI is really diverse but in order for us to effect that positive change or to get our message across, we need to really reach out to the different cultures, age groups, and generations," she said.

Maisie Tenorio, coalition executive director, noted that peace must start within individuals so that everybody can enjoy a violence-free community.

"We have to make the choice to choose peace. We have to consciously do that every day," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The committee has lined up other activities to raise awareness against domestic violence. They have scheduled Walks Against Violence on Wednesdays of October and educational booths at the Garapan Street Market. Additionally, there will be village conversations about domestic violence while service providers will discuss accessible community resources.

Oct. 14 will be dedicated as a Day of Prayer to encourage different religions and faith-based organizations to talk about domestic violence in their Mass and church services. Nimwes said that at 9am on this day, the committee will offer a special Mass at the San Antonio Church.

Tinian and Rota will also have their own activities such as softball tournaments, walks, and candlelight vigils.

Last Sunday, the committee held a celebrity bagging at I-Mart, Hannam Market, and Joteten Susupe.

For more information, call 234-3878.

Woman on trial for theft, forgery charges

The jury trial of a woman facing theft and forgery charges began yesterday in Superior Court.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho selected the seven jurors who will decide the fate of Paula Jane S. Hamilton.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom late yesterday afternoon, police detective Jonathan Decena was still on the witness stand.

The Office of the Attorney General charged the 36-year-old Hamilton with four counts of theft and four counts of forgery.

According to the OAG, Hamilton stole and forged four checks belonging to Seafix Inc. The checks have amounts of \$978.46; \$962.42; \$986.41; and \$827.43. Hamilton pleaded not guilty.

Attorney Joaquin Torres is counsel for Hamilton. Attorney Victorino Torres is assisting his brother, Joaquin Torres, for the defense. Assistant attorney general Chemere K. McField is prosecuting the case with the aid of assistant attorney general Jacinta Kaipat. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Man allegedly stole money from poker machine

Police arrested Saturday one of two men who allegedly stole \$876 from a poker machine's cash box inside an arcade in western Garapan.

Mariano O. Sablan, 66, was arrested on a warrant for theft. His bail was set at \$5,000 cash.

It was not clear as of press time yesterday whether the second suspect, Primo Don Ogarto, was still at large.

Police detective Rick Reyes stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched to the U-Luck Poker in western Garapan on Sept. 28, 2012, at 4:13am for a theft case.

When the officer arrived at the poker arcade, an off-duty firefighter met him and claimed that he witnessed the theft.

A review of the video footage at the arcade allegedly showed Sablan opening the money box for the poker machine and taking out the money. Ogarto was also seen in the surveillance footage.

Reyes said the then off-duty firefighter told him that he was at U-Luck Poker and had asked Sablan how to use the machine since he does not know how to use it.

The firefighter said that after playing his \$2, he moved

away from the machine and just watched others playing. That was when he allegedly saw Sablan opening the machine's cash box and taking out the money. The firefighter said that Ogarto helped Sablan secure the cash box. The two then left.

The firefighter then informed the arcade's security guard about the incident. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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BMV closed until Oct. 15

The Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicle will be closed until Monday, Oct. 15. This is due to inclement weather and technical issues, which has

delayed infrastructure and security improvements at BMV.

BMV management and staff hope to minimize the impact of disruption of service to the pub-

lic as much as possible. DPS acting commissioner Aniceto R. Ogomoro is asking for the public's patience and understandings as DPS continues to work on upgrading and modernizing its system. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, emphasizes the role of the Public School System as an institution during yesterday's statewide professional development training about the role of the educational institution in the 21st century learning. Seated along with her are, associate commissioner for instructional services Jackie Quitugua, state Parent Advisory Council president Janice Tenorio, Board of Education members Lucia Blanco-Maratita and Herman T. Guerrero, partly hidden, Kagman High School vice principal Kimo Rosario and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Charlotte Camacho.

INTEGRATION

From Page 1

At the same time, Special Committee on Impeachment chair Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said yesterday the panel wants the Office of the Attorney General to clarify whether Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had the authority to sign the 25-year PPA with Saipan Development LLC and whether the PPA constitutes a "public debt" and needed the Legislature's approval.

Fitial placed CUC under a state of emergency, thereby suspending CUC's procurement rules.

Yesterday marked the sixth day of the impeachment hearings.

Fitial's special legal counsel, Jim Stump, said in his testimony before the panel that the PPA with Saipan Development LLC has not been fully examined so there's no telling how it will impact any renewable energy project being planned.

Deleon Guerrero, during the

hearing, pointed to a July 22 email from Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Alan W. Fletcher to Stump, warning of "some roadblocks to integrating renewable energy" into the then proposed PPA.

"If left as is, they could make even the Solar #1 financially hard to implement due to the 'take or pay' provisions. This, coupled with the possibility of a Midland deal, which you and the Lt. [Gov. Eloy S. Inos] referred to, means we may [have] opposing projects," Fletcher told Stump.

When pressed by impeachment panel members, Stump said he brought up these concerns with the Office of the Attorney General but not to the governor.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said if the CNMI is required to buy power from Saipan Development LLC's 50MW diesel power plant for 25 years under the PPA and the peak demand for power is

about 30MW, where does renewable energy come in?

A California-based investor for \$40-million solar photovoltaic power plants called American Capital Energy or ACE, for example, has been waiting for a year now for a contract award from CUC after being selected as the best bidder among those that responded to an RFP.

71 issues

A copy of a July 4 meeting summary at the Hyatt Regency Saipan among individuals involved in the PPA negotiations stated that Stump had "71 issues" about the then proposed PPA. Stump was not among those in the meeting and was not part of the negotiation team.

The meeting summary also stated, "If anyone sees an issue that would be FATAL to the project, they will notify others as soon as possible."

A month later or on Aug. 3, Fitial and then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy first birthday Boyd Tyler Dlg Namelo! May you have a one-derful birthday and may the Lord continue to shower you with many blessings! We love you, handsome! Greetings from your godparents, family, and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to the woman of my dreams, Kayla Magofna Iguel-Lisua! Happy beer-day! Cheers and many, many more beers to come! Enjoy and have a great one! Greetings come from your husband at Saipan Ice, Baren Lisua.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 26th birthday to a sister, mother, daughter, *ku-maire*, and a good friend, Jadine Hockett! May the good Lord bless you on this special day! Enjoy and many more beautiful years to come.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday and congratulations to Kukuling Iguel! May you have many, many more beers and blessings to come.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to my sister Monica Kenya Lizama! May the Lord bless you on your special day and we hope you enjoy this day. We love you, Poncham! With much love from Esper, Tinie, and Craig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TRO's prohibitions

Stump also told the panel that a current temporary restraining order granted by the court prohibits the expenditure of public funds relating to the \$190.8 million PPA.

He said this is prohibiting the administration or CUC from having experts do a full economic analysis on the PPA.

Deleon Guerrero said if this is the case, then how would the administration issue a request for proposal for a full economic analysis?

Stump later said this could be done through issuing an RFP for a general economic analysis of CUC, which is done regularly anyway, and within that general contract, the contractor could make an analysis of the PPA with Saipan Development LLC.

A full economic analysis would help determine whether the sole-source, 25-year PPA is in the best interest of CUC, its customers, and the CNMI as a whole.

Impeachment committee

members have received personal and professional opinions from witnesses pointing to the need for a full economic analysis "prior" to the signing of the PPA.

\$50,000 proposal

Stump told the committee that the administration earlier received a proposal from economists.com to conduct a full economic analysis on the PPA for \$50,000, a price that Stump said is "inappropriate" given that economists.com as CUC consultant has already done extensive study on CUC.

Moreover, economists.com has already done preliminary and cursory review of the PPA.

Stump said the administration thinks the \$50,000 proposal is already equivalent to the annual income of three households in the CNMI.

"It was the opinion of the executive office that the cost should be somewhere around \$10,000 to \$15,000," he told the panel.

The impeachment hearings will continue today.

PUBLIC

From Page 1

principals were given the option to choose which position needed to be filled immediately: vice principal or school counselor.

And because a teacher works directly with students, Sablan said many principals opted this school year to keep their school counselors—as they can also be teachers—while giving up their vice principal posts.

According to principals' representative for secondary schools Jonas Barcinas, most

schools that have enrollments between 300 and 400 this school year have no vice principals. Among these schools are San Antonio, Tanapag, Gregorio T. Camacho, Koblerville, and Oleai elementary schools and Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, among others.

Barcinas said that funding dictates the staffing levels in every campus. He said it is through the creativity and commitment of administrators, teachers, and counselors that PSS survives.

There are also large schools that currently lack vice princi-

pals such as Saipan Southern High School with 850 students. SSHS principal Jesse Tudela told *Saipan Tribune* that it has been a challenge to operate the school without a vice principal. SSHS lost its vice principal to Hopwood Junior High School, which has over 1,000 enrollees.

"Coordination among staff, teachers, and students has been a challenge since we opened classes a month ago. Yes, we do have counselors but with the situation we have now, it's really difficult. Our three school counselors are

also teaching classes while I am assisting and substituting," said Tudela.

He hopes that at least one vice principal will be hired soon for SSHS.

Other big schools such as Marianas High School has three vice principals.

Commissioner Sablan said that with an enrollment of over 1,400 students, all MHS administrators and counselors are also teaching classes to address the shortage of instructors, said Sablan.

Kagman High School has two vice principals and counselors

yesterday, Wiseman noted that CHC has recently denied non-emergency care to certain inmates at DOC due to the lack of payment.

Wiseman said these changes in CHC policy have prompted DOC to find other routes for

that are also teaching classes.

"I visited MHS this week and of course, I couldn't see the principal [Cherlyn Cabrera] because she's out there substituting [in classes]. So I go on with my work without meeting the administrator because she's doing it for the students," said Sablan, citing the same situation at Garapan Elementary School.

According to Sablan, "Lucky are those schools that have not lost their VPs...because when you lose your vice principal, we really don't replace them because we're short of funding."

medical care.

Wiseman said the government is equally unable to provide appropriate postnatal care for the mothers or their newborns.

The judge required the defendants to notify DOC within 24 hours of the birth of their child.

CHC

From Page 1

They are not allowed to leave the premises without approval from the Department of Public Safety.

Riong and Tipingeni were among the five persons convicted of beating up a female cashier and two men at a store in Chalan Kanoa. The two were each sentenced in July to two years and six months in prison.

Reiong is now about nine months pregnant and could go into labor at any time. Tipingeni is about eight months pregnant and reportedly has a medical history of premature birth complications.

In his order for house arrest

Six weeks from that date, Wiseman said, DPS shall escort the defendants back into DOC custody.

Wiseman said time served during house arrest shall count toward the defendants' total sentence.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Recipients of this year's First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year scholarship gather for a group photo during a ceremony at Northern Marianas College yesterday. Nine students from NMC were among the 15 scholars this year. The six other scholarship awardees are from University of Guam and Guam Community College. Also in photo are Glimpses Publications publisher Maureen N. Maratita, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and region manager Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, acting NMC president Barbara Merfalen, and Businesswoman of the Year nominee Laila Y. Boyer.

Nine NMC students are awarded Businesswoman of the Year scholarships

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Nine students from the Northern Marianas College were named recipients of the 2012 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship, sharing between them the \$10,200 awarded this semester.

The scholars are Nazario Omar Ajoste, Candelaria Tabora Aldan, Jatana Cabrera, Marie Luise Del Carmen, Kathleen Ann Laurio, Yolanda Lizama, Alvi Jane Manabat, Keneisha Parks, and Eldred Sanchez. Each will receive scholarship grants ranging from \$785 to \$1,307, which covers tuition and stipend.

The Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship program has been in existence for seven years. It provides eligible student scholarships at three higher educational institutions: NMC, University of Guam, and Guam Community College. Funds for the scholarships were raised through the 2012 Businesswoman of the Year Gala held in April.

Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and region manager for Guam and the CNMI, and Glimpses Publications publisher Maureen N. Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* that this year's scholars from NMC is the largest group so

far. Last year's batch had six recipients.

The University of Guam and the Guam Community College each has three scholars this semester. They are scheduled to receive their awards today in Guam.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, the program looks at the candidates' grade point average, academic achievements, and extra-curricular activities, including community service. He or she must also be a business major student.

Maratita said they started the program in Guam in 2006. It was extended to the CNMI in 2008.

Maratita also lauded Businesswoman of the Year nominee Laila Y. Boyer, who graced yesterday's occasion, for consistently supporting the program.

Acting NMC president Barbara Merfalen, the college's dean of academic programs, said the college is very happy that First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* continue to include NMC in the scholarship program. With nine awardees this year, Merfalen praised the students for "staying on top of their studies."

Marie Luise Del Carmen said the scholarship means so much to her as this is her third semester to be chosen to receive the grant. The 19-year-old is a sophomore business accounting major this semester.

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Ex-CAFD president pleads guilty to embezzlement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A former president of the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities who faces charges of embezzling at least \$5,000 of the group's funds pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday.

Elisa Borja Ada agreed to waive indictment and pleaded guilty to embezzling

funds from a program receiving federal funds. She will be sentenced on Feb. 22, 2013 at 9am.

Ada, also known as Elisa Ada Aldan and Lisa A. Ada, was allowed to remain free pending her sentencing.

The crime carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000, as well as mandatory restitution.

Under the plea deal, the U.S. government agreed to recommend to the court, regardless of the guideline range ultimately determined by the U.S. Probation Office, that Ada be given a probation sentence.

Steven Pixley is the court-appointed counsel for the defendant. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe represents the U.S. government.

CAFD was a local govern-

ment agency receiving benefits in excess of \$10,000 in 2007 and 2008 under federal grants awarded by the U.S. Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Beginning 2007, Ada started embezzling CAFD funds by, among other things, causing CAFD checks to be issued to various individuals, forging those individuals' signatures, and then cashing the checks at

local markets on Saipan.

In addition, Ada caused 11 checks drawn on a "payroll account" held by CAFD at Bank-Pacific to be issued and which she later converted to her own use. The amounts ranged from \$639 to \$1,341.02.

Ada also embezzled funds by taking advantage of the fact that she owned office space used by CAFD in 2007 and 2008. She caused checks

drawn on a "payroll account" held by CAFD at Bank of Saipan to be issued to her for advance rent payments.

Oftentimes, she received multiple payments in a single month, ultimately resulting in her being paid \$8,900 more than she was owed.

Ada used to be the collection branch manager at the Department of Finance's Division of Tax & Revenue.

Red Cross recognizes its dedicated volunteers



Jerry Facey, center, talks on the microphone after receiving his Lifetime Honorary Board Member award as American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh and board chair John Guerrero look on at the 24th Annual Club 200 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa on Oct. 6.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI

Chapter recognized last Saturday several of its volunteers who help the organization reach out to those in need.

During its 24th Annual Club 200 held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, the humanitarian organization presented certificates



Emergency services director Juan Diego Tenorio of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, right, hands the certificate of appreciation to disaster action team volunteer Dean Oscillios during the 24th Annual Club 200 last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

of appreciation to Anita Sablan, Juan Lizmaa, Dean Oscillios, and Jerry Facey.

Anita Sablan, the Red Cross club adviser at Marianas High School, was acknowledged for her hard work, dedication, and commitment to the Red Cross and its humanitarian mission, as well as her active involvement in the club and empowering the youth to do community service.

Juan Lizama, one of the long-serving board members of Red Cross, was also recognized for his nine consecutive years in the board and several years as an alternate.

Both Sablan and Lizama were not present to receive

their awards.

A certificate of appreciation was also presented to Dean Oscillios, a disaster action team member who was acknowledged for his exceptional service and dedication to the disaster services mission of Red Cross.

"Any chance he gets off from work, he's up volunteering when we call him," said emergency services director Juan Diego Tenorio, describing Oscillios as "very skilled" and "very dedicated" in his Red Cross work.

Oscillios, who works at Joteten Superstore as the receiving department supervisor, said he began his volunteer work in

1997. "It feels good when you are able to help people who are in need," he said in an interview. "Red Cross is like my second family and I'm surprised about this award."

Red Cross also bestowed its Lifetime Honorary Board Member award to Jerry Facey, the "grandfather" of Red Cross, according to executive director John Hirsh.

A native of Springfield, Massachusetts, Facey has had extensive Red Cross experience in various capacities but "his first love has been and always will be disaster response," said Hirsh.

Hirsh said Facey has spent thousands of volunteer hours in an effort to help those in need, having responded to every major disaster in the CNMI in the last 25 years, even serving as Red Cross responder during the 9/11 attacks in New York.

Facey, whose full-time job is benefit adviser for the Prior Service Trust Fund, said in an interview that the time he spent with Red Cross has been a "satisfying and rewarding job."

Red Cross officials and staff also expressed gratitude for the community's support in their biggest fundraising event every year.

"Despite the horrific economy and despite the rainy and wet conditions, we had a whole bunch of people to support the Red Cross. We are here to support people in their time of need and our community came out and supported us," said board chair John Guerrero.

For his part, Hirsh said the event proves that "volunteerism is very alive and well in our community."

"That's what motivates me for my work, to see the people around me doing so much," said Hirsh. "Given our economic climate, it's tough on families. But I think our families do realize that they have to support organizations that in the end would help them. We saw that tonight," he added.

Hirsh said the raffle draw winners will be contacted by their office in the coming days after verification of ticket numbers.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
THIRTEENTH TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952 CNMI USA
Tel. (670) 433-3470 Facsimile:(670) 433-0814**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Thirteen Tinian Municipal Council hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Session 13-10 on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tinian Court House.

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Testimony of the Mayor
- 4) Testimony of the Appointee
- 5) Public Testimony
- 6) Finding and Recommendation by the EAGI Chairman
- 7) Miscellaneous
- 8) Adjournment

/s/ Estevan P. Cabrera
Chairman

Robert T. Torres
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No.: 234-7859
Fax No.: 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

**LYDIA VALERA
PARKS,**
Petitioner,

vs.

**STEPHEN FRANCIS
PARKS,**
Respondent.

**FCD-DI CIVIL
ACTION
NO. 12-0087 FCD**

**NOTICE OF
HEARING ON
PETITIONER'S
MOTION FOR
DEFAULT
JUDGMENT**

NOTICE is hereby given that Petitioner Lydia Valera Parks, through counsel, Robert T. Torres, has filed a Motion for Default Judgment in the above-styled case. The hearing on said Motion will be heard on October 29, 2012, at 1:30pm, by Honorable Judge Kenneth Govendo at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated on September 27, 2012.

Sabrina, Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk
Superior Court

MANAGING EDITOR: Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course. At least 8 years progressive journalism and newspaper management experience with a strong story evaluation and production background. Must have rigorous proofreading skills and able to meet tight deadlines. Knows how to use InDesign or Quark Express and must be adept in the various technical aspects of newspaper publishing.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office at the 2nd Floor JP Center Building, Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, October 15, 2012.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Fitial appoints 3 to Civil Service Commission, health care board

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed Herman R. Deleon Guerrero to serve on the Civil Service Commission and re-appointed Pam Carhill and appointed Dr. Alan S. Markoff to the Health Care Professions Licensing Board.

The governor submitted De-

leon Guerrero's name to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) on Oct. 4, barely a week after he withdrew the appointment. Deleon Guerrero will represent Saipan on the commission.

Deleon Guerrero's appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate. If confirmed, he will fill a seat vacated by Felix Fitial on Jan. 9, 2012.

He will serve a six-year term that will expire on Jan 10, 2018.

Carhill will represent health care professionals on the Health Care Professions Licensing Board. If confirmed by the Senate, her new appointment will expire on July 15, 2015.

Fitial also appointed Markoff to the Health Care Professions Licensing Board representing

dentists. Markoff will fill a seat vacated by Dr. Kenneth Pier-son, which expired on Aug. 30, 2014. If confirmed by the Senate, his term will expire on Aug. 30, 2014.

As appointees, Deleon Guerrero, Carhill, and Markoff are required to file a statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor, a copy of their resume, police clearance, and drug test receipt.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said yesterday that his panel will schedule a public hearing on these three new nominees.

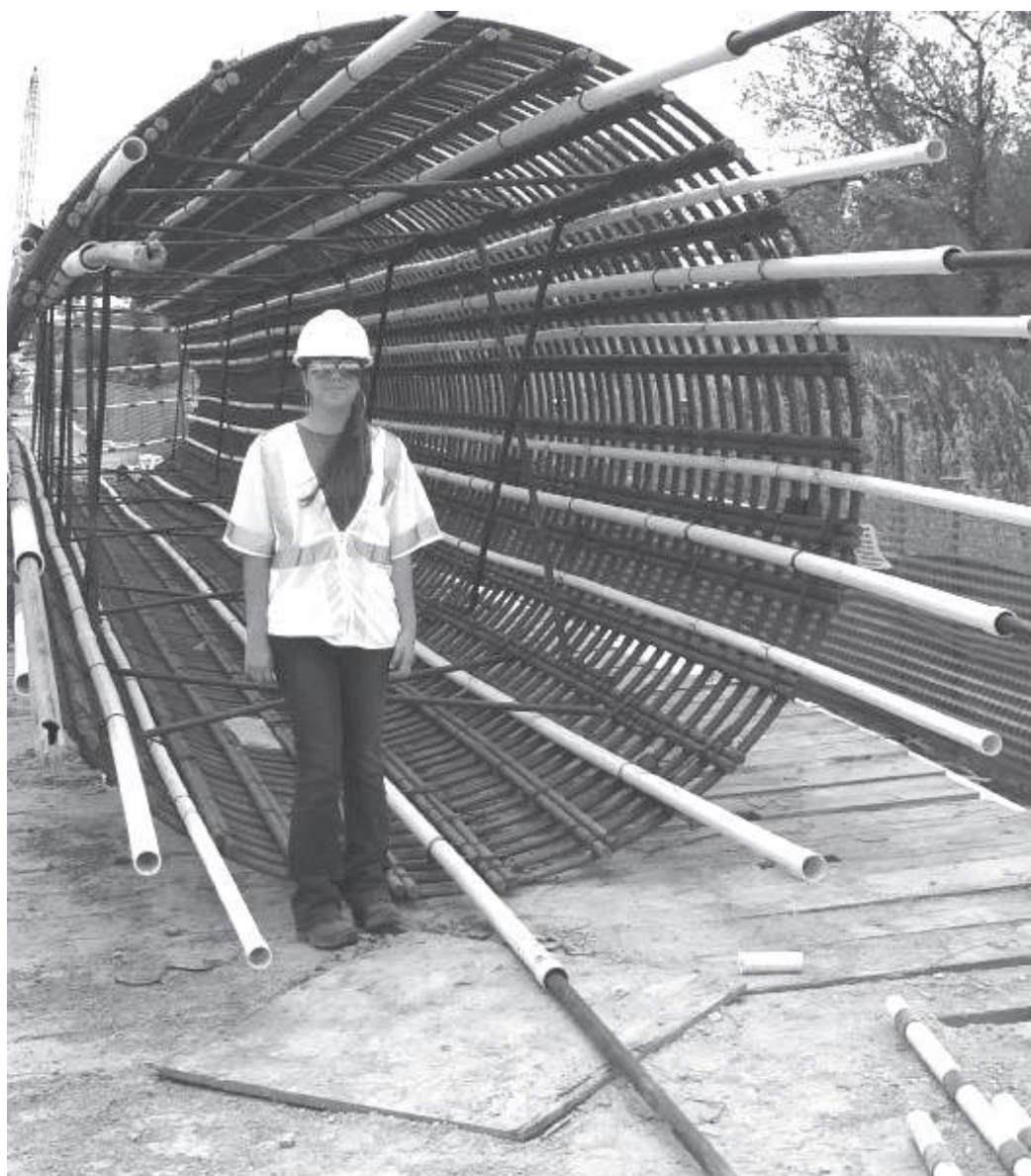
Today, Cruz's EAGI Committee will hold a public hearing on the governor's chief justice nominee, Alexandro C. Castro. If and when confirmed

by the Senate, Castro will serve an eight-year term.

The governor's lack of appointees to the chief justice post and the Civil Service Commission are among the 16 allegations of neglect of duty, corruption, and felony in a resolution impeaching the governor.

Today's public hearing on the chief justice nominee coincides with Fitial's rescheduled leadership meeting with lawmakers.

Arenovski explores civil engineering as future career



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amy Arenovski, a senior at Saipan Southern High School, spent her summer being mentored by global engineering giant AECOM in Sacramento, California.

While most CNMI high school students were at the beach enjoying the rights of summer, Amy Arenovski, a senior at Saipan Southern High School, spent her time being mentored by global engineering giant AECOM in Sacramento, California.

"My aunt [has] a Ph.D. in marine biology and works for AECOM. She helped make the arrangements for me to 'mentor' in Sacramento (internships are for college students)," said Arenovski. "My designation was with the transportation engineering group, under the guidance of senior project engineer and AECOM vice president Thomas R Barnard, P.E. I worked with a number of different transportation engineers at AECOM in the Sacramento office. Being able to watch them and help them with their daily work gave me the opportunity to see what life would be like if

I had a job like this."

Arenovski got the idea of becoming an engineer in her freshman year when the "back island" road project began. "I was very interested in the road work being completed. 'Why are they doing this,' 'what is that' and finally... 'what kind of job does this type of work?'"

Arenovski's summer was filled with being exposed to a number of ongoing projects including the new light rail transportation system for Sacramento and bridge project in Hawaii. "The people at AECOM included me in all the major projects that they worked on and have welcomed me back for an internship when I start college."

"Working with the transportation engineers at AECOM this summer really helped me understand what a civil engineer truly does. While I was there, I was able to get familiar with the

engineering computer programs such as AutoCAD and MicroStation, which some students don't understand how to use until they are in college."

Arenovski's experience reinforced her desire to pursue a career in engineering. "It also was an experience living away from Saipan without my family. It was hard being away but I learned about being on my own, away from things I am comfortable with. I even missed my younger sister," she said, smiling from ear to ear.

Because of her interest in engineering, Arenovski also spent two weeks traveling and visiting colleges and universities with engineering programs in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Nevada to see which college may be a good fit.

Arenovski was born and raised on Saipan and is the daughter of Jill and Jim Arenovski. (PR)



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Insurance group reaches out to Dora

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Insurance Association donated two cases of PediaSure nutritional drinks to an 8-year-old girl who has been in and out of the intensive care unit at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Association president Cathy Tenorio, secretary Lisa Benavente, and treasurer Gol Corpuz presented the donation to Dora Grace A. Camacho last Sept. 28.

Corpuz, who represents Centu-

ry Insurance, said in an interview that the donation is part of the community service of the group.

The Northern Marianas Insurance Association, composed of representatives and alternates of insurance companies, was founded in 1982 with the motto "Hope for the best and expect for the worst." Since its inception, it has donated to various worthy causes including the American Red Cross, Department of Public Safety Fire Division, triathlon events, Trunk or Treat, and the Japan Tsunami.

Corpuz recounted that dur-

ing their last monthly meeting, the group decided to make a small donation to Camacho, whose story has brought together community members who want to see the young patient receive her much needed medical treatment.

"We met her for the first time when we visited her room. She cannot talk but she offered a different kind of smile that can light up the room. She symbolizes hope for many indigenous children," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Corpuz said that Camacho would not be the last young

beneficiary of NMIA. "We will not close our doors to any other child who needs help.

NMIA will mark its 30 years of providing insurance service to the islands by conducting education outreach to raise awareness of the importance of insurance and how the public can prepare for any type of calamity.

"We plan to reach out and provide training to schools and the insuring public so they can receive awareness and exposure of how insurance benefits the community," said Corpuz.

Guam Nat'l Guard welcomes home 254th FSS airmen



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A member of the 254th Force Support Squadron embraces his parents after arriving at the WonPat Guam International Air Terminal.

By SENIOR AIRMAN
AUDREYA J.P. TAITANO
GUAM AIR NATIONAL GUARD

JOINT FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS, Guam—Nine airmen of the 254th Force Support Squadron returned home this week, setting in motion a wave of redeployments for the Guam Air National Guard this week.

Within the next few days, over 100 members of the 254th Red Horse Squadron are also expected to return home.

Serving for several months under the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Afghanistan, the 254th FSS team members were instrumental in providing morale, welfare and recreation support to thousands of the deployed U.S. Armed Forces members.

"Our team played a role in supporting the larger mission to dismantle the deadly force of the Taliban, bringing stability to Afghanistan and shifting the military into more of an advisory role as we begin to withdraw our forces in America's longest running war," said Master Sgt. Jerry Damian,

254th FSS education and training manager, and team leader during the deployment.

MWR services come in the form of bed down, feeding, mortuary affairs, and other support necessary for the daily operations of the deployed sites.

Master Sgt. Virginia Carino, 254th food services superintendent, credits this as her fifth deployment since her Guard career began in November 1995.

"I was tasked with managing the dining facility as well as 10 alternate stations where U.S. Army Special Forces teams were embedded in the villages," said Carino. "We ensured that these stations were fully equipped with daily rations and water supply."

Though the days were grueling with 12-hour shifts, the deployment was also filled with achievements and personal accomplishments.

"The most rewarding experience was building trust and relationships with the local nationals. When we arrived, we had to make sure our military

members were out there working with and teaching the local nationals new skills," said Carino. "When it was time for us to head back home, the local nationals didn't want us to leave."

For Senior Airman Doreen Dela Cruz, quality assurance evaluator for the 254th FSS, reward came in being able to enhance the work environment for military members and the local nationals.

"Working together with our supervisor, we were able to bring in new dining facility equipment and uniforms for our local nationals, which they really appreciated," said Dela Cruz. "We also had the chance to celebrate Liberation Day while we were there and to implement some of our island cuisine."

The exemplary service that Guam Air National Guard members are contributing toward the mission is not going unnoticed. Master Sgt. Jerry Damian and Technical Sgt. Jorge Hernandez were both recipients of the Bronze Star

Medal, a decoration awarded to military members for having distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

254th FSS members were recognized several times over garnering multiple awards and recognitions while serving overseas.

"Regardless of the medals, our team's service and sacrifice made a difference in Afghanistan that will last for years to come. This is our duty," said Damian. "Like any airmen called to serve, our dedication to the mission could not have happened without the support of our leadership, the Airman and Family Readiness, the Family Readiness Group, and most importantly, each and every one of our families."

The team members were met at the WonPat Guam International Air Terminal by family members and by Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino, along with other leaders of the GUANG, and fellow airmen and soldiers.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 10, 2000

NMHC asked to beef up

private financing for homes

There is a need for the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation to evaluate a mix of mechanisms in order to beef up its efforts in opening up doors of financing opportunities for both public and private home projects. Commonwealth Development Authority and NMHC Board of Directors, led by Chair John S. Tenorio, have been asked to explore both tax-exempt and taxable revenue bond financing for both public and private housing projects. Banks, realtors, developers and contractors should all be involved in financial planning with NMHC, said Rep. William S. Torres in a letter to Mr. Tenorio, adding that the housing corporation needs all of these to successfully execute a project of bigger magnitude.

'Don't take the credit for Compact Impact money'

Speaker Benigno R. Fitial said CNMI voters should understand that there are a number of people to be thanked for winning a million dollar share of the Compact Impact money for the Commonwealth, but none of them work for the Clinton administration or its Interior department. He said that even though Resident Rep. Juan N. Babauta rushed to announce the development in interview with reporters, he should have spread around the credit to parties, according to a statement released by Office of the Speaker. Credits should go to such people as the key members of Congress who lobbied on behalf of the CNMI, personal lobbying of Congress by members of the House majority coalition and the more favorable impression being generated about the Commonwealth in Washington D.C.

Oct. 10, 2001

New divisions in DOLI mulled

Moves are now afoot for the elevation of the Employment Office and the Hearing Office at the Department of Labor and Immigration from mere offices into full divisions. This after Rep. Egredino M. Jones met with DOLI Secretary Mark D. Zachares last week where he brought up the possible elevation of the two offices into division level. "I met with Zachares last week to talk about the separation of the Employment Office and Hearing Office from the DOLI and creating them as divisions, to be headed by directors. Zachares was very receptive to the idea and what is only needed is the necessary legislation that would put this in motion," Jones said.

Senate recalls NMC funding bill

Due to technical deficiencies, the Senate has recalled from Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio a bill that would have set aside government money for selected programs at the Northern Marianas College. The Senate's action on House Bill 12-361 will further delay the allocation of funds into NMC programs that were primarily set up to promote and develop local talent in areas that are important to the long-term growth and stability of the Commonwealth. No reason was given for the recall of the bill, besides citing technical defects in the proposed measure. Earlier, the Senate had passed the bill on August 30, a mere 15 days after it sailed through the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote.

Oct. 10, 2002

OPA: CUC wasted nearly \$2M for failed power plant project

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. spent nearly \$2 million in expenses related to the failed 80/60 megawatt Saipan power plant project, with 57 percent of the costs incurred after the Legislature enacted the law that required the construction of the project. This were the findings made by the Office of the Public Auditor in a compilation report it submitted on the procurement of the power project that was eventually scrapped in October 2001 on the recommendation that it was not needed nor in the best interest of CUC. According to Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan, the project never really got off the ground due to the drawn out procurement process.

Fennell bills BoS for services as receiver

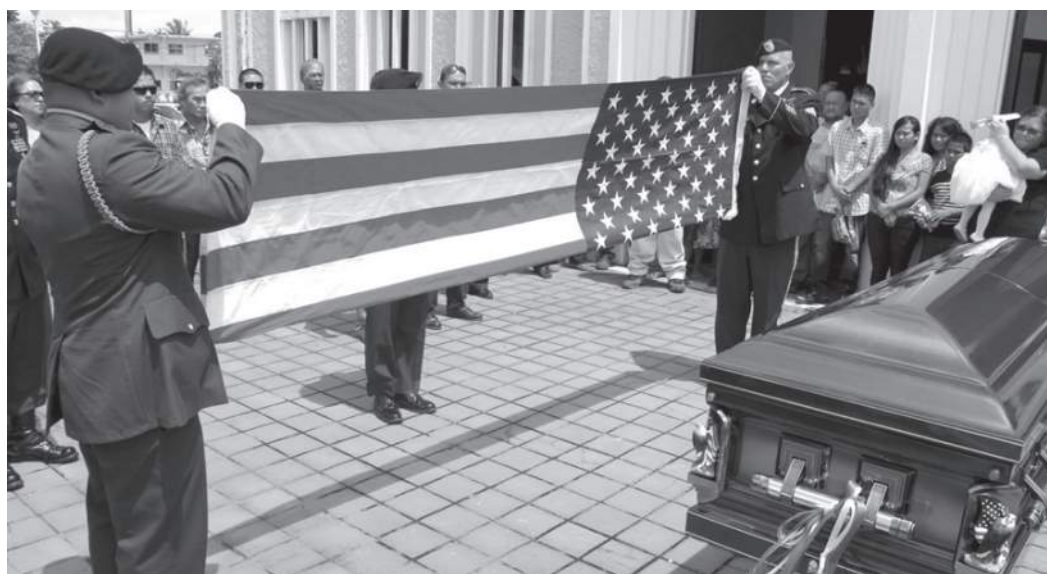
Former Bank of Saipan receiver Randall Fennell submitted his final billings for approval by the Superior Court—including his proposed service fee—after the court directed the payment of a similar amount to lawyers and consultants. Fennell, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, told the court that his proposed fee amounting to \$64,000 is reasonable at the rate of \$16,000 per month. This contention, however, was contested by Michael Dotts, lawyer for Thomas, Paul and Edward Calvo, who are shareholders of the bank and intervenors to the receivership case. Dotts described Fennell's service fee as "outrageous", saying that the rate is equivalent to approximately \$250,000 per annum.

An Island Mourns

Photos By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Catholic priest Fr. Ryan Jimenez officiates the Mass of Christian burial for the late U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero, whose casket is near the altar of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on Monday. Deleon Guerrero's sister, Lani Deleon Guerrero, said yesterday that contrary to other family members' earlier statements, her brother was a sergeant when he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, not a specialist. She also said her brother suffered from AVM or arteriovenous malformation, and not aneurism as the family earlier said.



Members of the U.S. Army prepare to wrap an American flag on the casket of the late U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero on Monday. Deleon Guerrero, a recipient of an Afghanistan campaign medal with two campaign stars, passed away on Sept. 23 but seven others would have a second chance to live after he donated seven of his organs.

Former representative Florencio Deleon Guerrero, along with young family members, stands in front of Mount Carmel Cathedral moments before helping carry the casket of his son, the late U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero, onto a waiting hearse on Monday.



Former representative Florencio Deleon Guerrero, right, helps carry the casket of his son, the late U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero, onto a waiting hearse in front of Mount Carmel Cathedral on Monday.



Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, center, blesses the casket of U.S. Army Specialist Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan moments before her burial at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday afternoon.



Members of the U.S. Army carry the casket of U.S. Army Specialist Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan to her final resting place at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday afternoon.



The immediate family members of U.S. Army Specialist Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan walk to her final resting place at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday afternoon.



Members of the U.S. Army, family members, and other relatives on their way to the final resting place of U.S. Army Specialist Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

We'd like more clarity in the debates to come

Mitt Romney had a good night—a great night, in fact. If it's possible to “win” a debate, Romney won it. On policy, however, voters deserve more clarity than we heard from either candidate Wednesday night. Consider three key areas: taxes, jobs and the deficit.

Taxes: Is the former Massachusetts governor really proposing a “\$5 trillion tax cut,” as the president charged? No. Like any good politician, Obama is assuming the worst about his opponent's ideas.

Romney is proposing to cut tax rates by 20 percent (from 35 percent to 28 percent at the high end). He says his plan would be “revenue neutral” because he would close tax loopholes and eliminate or limit deductions. He floated the idea of limiting itemized deductions this week, including the one for mortgage interest, but Romney has been reluctant to lay out a fuller proposal for fear of having it picked apart. That means we have no idea whether what he says is true or not. The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center has concluded that it's impossible to make his tax plan “revenue neutral,” and we suspect the center is right—unless Romney and his acolytes make unrealistic assumptions.

We favor a flatter, simpler tax code for individuals. But we think it should produce more revenue and be more progressive (wealthy Americans should pay a bit more). Obama's plan calls for raising rates on the rich, but no tax reform. Apparently, he's satisfied with the same old Byzantine system.

Jobs: Romney promises to “help create 12 million new jobs.” Sounds good until you realize that unless the U.S. falls back into recession, that's about how many jobs will be created no matter who wins. Moody's Analytics reported in August that it expected 12 million jobs to be created by 2016, reports Glenn Kessler, the Washington Post's fact-checker. As we have said repeatedly, presidents have far less power to “create” jobs—or destroy them—than many voters seem to believe. The global economy is a very big place.

It's better to focus on things that the president can exercise more control over—such as the deficit.

The deficit: Obama likes to claim that his deficit-reduction plan is similar to one proposed by the deficit reduction commission that he appointed—Simpson-Bowles. It's not. Obama relies on gimmicks to get to \$4 trillion of deficit reduction, such as counting about \$1 trillion in budget cuts that he and Congress have already agreed on. Simpson-Bowles spread the work over nine years; Obama looks out 10 years, and a lot of his savings are backloaded. Compared side by side, Simpson-Bowles comes to about \$6.6 trillion in deficit reduction; Obama's plan, about \$3.5 trillion.

And Romney? He says he'll reduce the deficit. He just hasn't said very much about how. As noted, there are big questions about his tax plan.

We could go on—to health care policy for example—but you get the point. It was a better debate than most. But on policy matters, the picture remains murky.

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Double Ten

It was Sun Yat Sen (*Sun Jong Shan*), the Hakka exile, who led the liberation of Zhongguo from the Qing Dynasty (Manchus) and got the Kuomintang (nationalists) founded. The Double Ten (*Guoqingri*, also, *Shuangshijie*) was China's pre-1949 national day until Generalissimo Chiang hightailed it to Taiwan as head of the Republic of China.

Taipei continues to celebrate the day, though public gatherings were suspended awhile after an unfortunate aircraft crash of an F104 jet on a broadcasting station in 1964, and the collision of the two jets ordered to locate the crashed aircraft. It is still celebrated by most overseas Chinese and U.S. Chinatowns. The double 10 symbol looks like two Red Crosses joined, the numeral “10” being cross-like in Zhongwen characters.

In 1945, Mao and U.S. Ambassador Hurley met in Chongqing to ink the Double Ten agreement recognizing the ROC as the legitimate government in China, and the CPC as a recognized opposition. CPC claims that the Kuomintang reneged on the agreement, and the Civil War continued until Chiang was driven offshore.

Nevertheless, China remembers the abdication of Emperor Puyi in 1912 and the establishment of the republic following the abortive Wuchang uprising of Oct. 10 that ushered the Xinhai rebellion. Sun Yat Sen emerged as the leader of the new republic that flourished for four years but he gave way to Yuan Shikai the warlord as president who turned around and abolished the government to assume the role of emperor.

The celebration of Double Ten is not our immediate concern. The history of how nation states evolve is. We must remember that the idea of a nation state is a recent invention, a residue of the royalty-commoner dichotomy of Europe, and not necessarily from the broadening of political base as it is a continuation of the adversarial relationship began by the 1215 Magna Carta when feudal lords asserted their right to transparency on England's King John in ensuring liberties of his constituents.

Nineteenth-century British royalty competed against cousin Nicolas, tsar of Russia, over influence in Eurasia, Central, South, and the Far East. After the Russian Bolshevik Revolution of 1919, England found new enemies in the socialist-communist movement. Previously, England had a hard time paying for its taste for tea and silk in hard currency (silver and gold) so it brought opium from South Asia colonies to the comforting dens of the Qing domain, a tactic that weakened the grip of the Manchus on its constituents who were culturally predisposed to a life of ease. Addictions to that end were tolerated.

European empires collapsed in the internecine fights of WWI and practically ended after WWII with the decolonization process that created nation-states whose boundaries, by agreement of the former colonials, were to remain from their previous delineations. Thus the tribal wars in Africa bedeviled the previous century, and with the Peak Oil reality impinging on the last remaining empire based on oil economy in this century, the scramble for oil fields has become the *raison d'être*

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com)
previously taught at San Vicente Elementary
School on Saipan and is currently a guest
lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in
China.

of consuming states. The North Africa-Middle East turmoil is but an extension of the fight to control oil, with the powers-that-be preferring entrenched monarchs rather than the rule of volatile masses.

There are those who live off the fracturing of the China of post-1912. Even MacArthur was ready to cross the Yalu, or deliver the A-bomb to the Hans before he was sacked from his command. That Beijing and Taipei both agree on one China is a remarkable political consensus but with varied ramifications. There are 22 countries in the world that still recognize Taiwan as an independent nation state, even as the Pentagon treats it as a client state for its ordnance and military technology. Cross-strait relation is guided by the one-country, two-systems principle. Not surprisingly, the mein chow, mooncakes, and the rice dishes taste the same on either side.

The U.S. presidential elections is revealing the long unacknowledged need to radically revamp the decision making process in the country. Congressional gridlock has become the rule and the arrangement is clearly a bane rather than a blessing.

The executive branch as front for daily management of the country is captive to a Pentagon that has taken weapons of mass destruction to ridiculous technological heights. Though the town meeting format has been revived, venues for actually engaging local folks in managing the direction of their lives remain more symbolic than actual.

Deciding who has access to natural resources, keeping an open-ended system of production so that labor and management collaborate with integrity in technological innovation and administrative efficiency, and regulating the exchange mechanisms so that the management of finances is treated more like a utility rather than an enshrined pantheon are lively issues that perhaps Sam McPhetres and the Social Science classes at NMC may begin to explore as valid subjects of study and research. Not the least of which is a broad-based participation in deciding what is important and significant.

I view Obama as an evolutionary step forward, his shortcomings notwithstanding. China turns a leaf this November. The 236-year old experiment in democracy is moving at tectonic speed; the 63-year old socialist experiment with a “middle realm” face is coming along. Paraphrasing our classroom mantra, I say: All of yesterday, appreciate; all of tomorrow, anticipate; all of today, participate. In all, celebrate!

Uniqueness of culture

Leave behind sophisticated analysis and in-depth news reports of issues you hear daily. Just sashay down along the shores of Palawan in the Philippines, golden beaches in Thailand, Okinawa, the CNMI, and elsewhere. Listen, talk, and watch the simple folks as they go through their daily routines. Try to measure whether the country could make it—build a robust economy—from their daily habits.

As you move about, watch how passersby react to trash on the ground: do they pick it up and appropriately dispose it or just ignore it because it's somebody else's job? Are rights of pedestrians observed on crosswalks? Does the host extend courtesy to its tourists and go out of its way to ensure a safe and memorable visit or do they let them sink or swim in the occasional whims of theft and robbery here? What time do restaurants begin winding down?

Said Victor Davis Hanson, a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, "The answers to these questions do not hinge on race, money, or natural wealth, but they do involve culture and the way average people predictably live minute by minute.

"Again, these national habits and traditions accrued over centuries, and as much as politics or economics, explain in part why Bonn is not Athens, and Zurich is not Naples, or for that matter why Cairo is unlike Tel Aviv or why Mexico City differs from Toronto."

And so I'd settle for the view that culture explains far more than what professionals, with a set of academic expertise, could suggest be done or changed. Added Hanson, "...government-driven efforts to change a country's behavior often ignore stubborn cultural differences that reflect centuries of complex history as well as ancient habits and adaptations to geography and climate."

For all the politically incorrect method of guessing whether a nation is likely to be perennially insolvent and wracked by corruption, only time could heal all wounds. Race, geography, climate, and national wealth are not indicators of economic success. How do you navigate centuries of clanish and tribalism?

There's an overwhelming reason for this: the undertaking (understanding culture) is analogous to fitting the entire Pacific Ocean into the tiny hole I've dug up along the shores of paradise. For now, I'd take another walk to listen, talk and watch my fellow man

live out his life minute by minute. I'd take a rain check imposing warped personal stereotypes or standard on culture that edifies the livelihood of people. I'd take my fellow man for what he is in his traditional or modern settings. All must descend into the corner of humility and respect the rainbow of cultures.

■ ■ ■ ■

Familial Instinct

For generations we've seen tribes, clans, and families refine the art of self-perpetuation that includes food gathering via farming and fishing, among others. These skills are passed on to the younger folks. Ours was communal sharing that still retains its strength among families here. It would still be a part of us even as we move toward greater individual liberty. It's also the hallmark of our cultural tradition.

Now, in the context of local politics, I would say that though we commit to fostering change for the better, the instinctive attraction to communal values still rule the day. It's a part of us, each of us, no matter how much we try to deny it. It's difficult in the sense that it's your family that is usually around, especially when trying times hit. Deferring to familial unity need not be announced. It happens. It's second nature on the islands.

Even liberals and conservatives would fight intensely (agreeable to remaining disagreeable) on ideological grounds but understand that their argument is still within the family. Each tries to figure out what it means to live in a country bequeathed to us by the American Revolution and Enlightenment.

Personally, I get pulled both ways especially when professional detachment kicks in, exercising individual liberty over the more compassionate tradition of communal sharing. The former is something I've developed and learned in my profession as a journalist. But it's here where I often recoil to reset my button.

■ ■ ■ ■

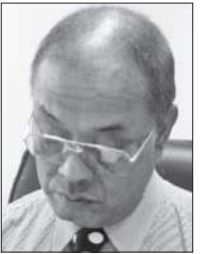
Culture of submission

The more powerful Spaniards stormed their way into our living rooms, ransacked the entire house, and forced our ancestors into submission. It included the strict use of Spanish as the official language of the islands.

For fear of reprisal, our ancestors swallowed the demeaning pill

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.

of humiliation. Their focus is the safety and perpetuation of our peoplehood. Every other conqueror did the same thing—stampeded what's indigenous—in favor of its ways.

So for several centuries our ancestors made do with what I call "adaptation" for purposes of survival. They did so with humility, always fearful of their fate. It evolved into the superficial culture of submission. This is because our ancestors were cautious against riling the conqueror. It could trigger genocide of the Chamorro people.

It wasn't until after the war that our older folks learned that there's such a thing as free speech and expression or freedom. Even the initial use by the more outspoken locals was seen as contrary to the forced and ingrained submissive culture wrought over 400 years. It was one difficult change. And difficult as it may have been, our elderly still remind us to keep our opinions to ourselves. Slowly, submission devolved and evolved into the exercise of the freedom of speech and expression.

Perhaps the radical in this scribe was ready to break that shell since I learned to pen my views on a myriad of issues year-in and year-out. Even good old mom went after my thin buns with a broom to impose submissive discipline. I wasn't ready for it! I kept at it since 1972.

Over the years, we've seen difficult changes descend upon our way of life, some good, some not so good, but we've moved forward in spite of it all. Freedom of speech and expression are now permanent fixtures in our daily life. Using it intelligently is a way to fostering understanding even among disagreeable parties. It's a healthy exercise in a democracy.

The unfair two-party stranglehold on debates

As the presidential election approaches, the emails in my in-box can be divided into three basically equal categories:

(1) "I cannot believe you have fallen for Obologna's trix."

(2) "How cum U cant see thru Mitwit Romney's dum republikkan dunnness."

(3) "Have you heard how Gary Johnson, the Libertarian Party candidate for president, is getting rolled?"

The first two categories I answer quickly and politely, because they are mostly from family. The Gary Johnson stuff I've just been chewing on, though, and getting disgusted.

We are a two-party system—not by law, but because the Democrats and the Republicans have seized the mechanisms of government. They use their control to maintain power, and other parties can't compete. This causes a bunch of self-perpetuating, corrosive behaviors, like government-funded primaries for these major parties, which are really nothing but private organizations. Withholding the money for a Republican primary out of a libertarian's paycheck makes as much sense as taxing Jews to pay for KKK dance parties (now that's an idea for a reality show).

Another, more pressing way the Republicans and Democrats control the process came about in the late 1980s when the two major parties created the "nonpartisan" Commission on Presidential Debates, and crowded out the League of Women Voters, which had run

the general election debates up until then.

In 1988, the League withdrew, saying in a statement that "the demands of the two campaign organizations would perpetrate a fraud on the American voter." The League was right. The debates have largely been unfair and prepackaged since then, and the Commission on Presidential Debates is currently run by a former head of the Republican National Committee and a former White House press secretary (under Bill Clinton). And no one from any other party need apply.

We now have an estimated 90 million "unlikely voters." These are citizens eligible to cast a ballot, who likely won't bother.

They say their vote won't matter, that there's nothing worth voting for. Interestingly, about 20 percent say they would vote for a third-party candidate if they did bother to cast a ballot, and 53 percent say third-parties are needed.

In a phone interview, Johnson, the former New Mexico governor who's heading the Libertarian Party ticket, told a miserable tale. He tried to run for president as a Republican this time, and was barred from most of the debates, even though, he says, he had the 4 percent support in a national poll needed to qualify.

"How would you feel about that," he asked, a bit plaintively. "What if it were you?"

Then he accepted the Libertarian Party nomination, and he can't get a lectern in the three general election debates, where the requirement is 15 percent support in a major poll. He's suing the Commission on Presidential Debates, but is unlikely to win in court. Regard-

to solve things through the court system.

According to your letter, Ray Cing was appointed by James Mendiola to the Tinian Gaming Commission in the past. Ray Cing and James Mendiola are close relatives and no one on Tinian raised the issue of unethical behavior. When Ray Cing's brother was in the CNMI Senate, he was afforded over 18 full-time employees, or FTEs, that were mainly occupied by Mr. Ray Cing's friends and family. Did we residents of Tinian took Mr. Ray Cing's brother to court for unethical behavior while in public office? When Ray Cing's cousin was in public office, why did Mr. Cing not raise the issue of unethical behavior against his cousin when Mr. Cing's relative was being afforded an outrageous salary to do nothing? Did the people of Tinian raise the issue of public corruption?

When Chandia was the mayor at one point in time on Tinian, did Mr. Ray Cing raise the issue of unethical behavior against Chandia for appointing his son-in-law (Mr. Ray Cing's brother) to the Tinian Gaming Commission? Did Mr. Cing raise the issue of

By LANE FILLER

Newsday



Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.

less, he believes he's polling at 6 percent nationally—and higher in many states—and what he draws could decide the race in a few of them, Ralph Nader-2000 style.

Few would want every lunatic who says he's running for president on the stage. But it would be good to have more debates, and to hear from more than the two big brands. What if every candidate on the ballot in at least half the states got to participate in a debate or two, and standards toughened for later forums.

It feels like "the establishment"—the corporations and power players—don't care which of the two major candidates wins. They just want to be sure a Ron Paul, a Gary Johnson, a Dennis Kucinich and a Ralph Nader can't win, or, really, that their often unconventional ideas can't be heard. And until enough people make noise about it, inside the voting booth and out, it won't change.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Self-sacrifice

This is in response to Don Farrell's letter to the editor (Pointing out the facts, *Saipan Tribune*, Oct. 1, 2012). We appreciate your unselfish action for resigning and not putting up a fight for the best interest of our people of Tinian. What you did saved our prospective investor from walking away from the multi-million dollar purchase of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

What we could not understand is why Mr. Cing and Mr. Manglona would have such tenacity to bring this matter to the judicial system. In the past, our elders would get involved and this incident should have not gone further. My grandparent and my great uncle tried their best to solve this matter the old-fashioned way, but our way of thinking has changed over the years and we tend

unethical behavior when his families were being given outrageous salaries (\$40,000 or more per annum) by the Chandia administration? Oh, we forgot that Mr. Ray Cing's brother was the chief of staff and the mayor's son-in-law. Talking about unethical behavior, Councilman Patrick Manglona's hiring of his uncle was pure disregard for his fiduciary duty as a public servant.

Mr. Farrell, you stated that the main reason why the individuals mentioned above were against your appointment was based on race. We strongly agree with your assumption, because an indigenous candidate would have a strong support base locally and it will be political suicide for anyone to go against the *familia* way of politics on Tinian. The non-local voters on Tinian should open their eyes and take the extra step not to vote hypocrites and biased candidates into office.






Cameron Taitano

Odessa, Texas

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 81

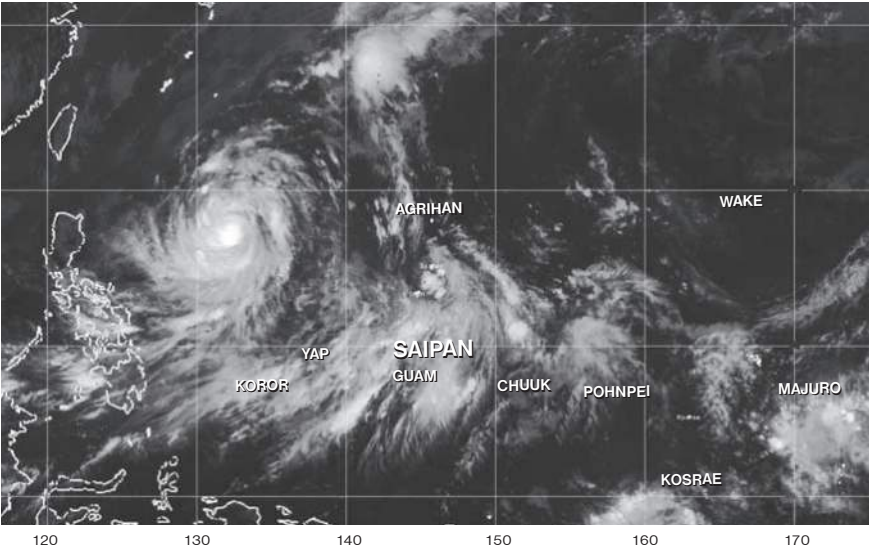
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 45
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 58
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 75
New York	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 52
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 65
Paris	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 53
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 54
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 61
Salem	Partly Cloudy	71 44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 54
Seoul	Showers	▲ 70 ▼ 49
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 63
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 52

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
5:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Prapiroon (22W) is centered 905 miles west-northwest of Saipan near 18N132E moving west at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of a line from 13N133E to 16N136E to 22N136E. For more detailed information on Prapiroon, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by National Weather Service Guam under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough stretches southeastward from Typhoon Prapiroon near 18N134E across the Marianas to end north of Chuuk at 12N153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Koror within 100 miles of a line from 8N131E to 7N136E near Guam and Yap between 5N and 13N from 137E to 151E northeast of Saipan within 100 miles of 15N147E and north of Pohnpei between 7N and 13N from 153E to 158E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 3N171E to 7N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	6:59 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:59 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:58 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	6:57 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:57 AM	1:53 PM
Thursday	1:49 AM	2:36 PM
Friday	2:42 AM	3:19 PM
Saturday	3:37 AM	4:03 PM
Sunday	4:33 AM	4:48 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the

name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UZ608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

NMI CRIME STOPPERS



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

IMF offers bleak assessment of stalled recovery

TOKYO (AP)—Plagued by uncertainty and fresh setbacks, the world economy has weakened further and will grow more slowly over the next year, the International Monetary Fund says in its latest forecast.

Advanced economies are risking recession, the international lending organization said in a quarterly update of its World Economic Outlook, and the malaise is spreading to more dynamic emerging economies such as China.

The IMF forecasts that the world economy will expand 3.3 percent this year, down from the estimate of 3.5 percent growth it issued in July. Its forecast for growth in 2013 is 3.6 percent, down from 3.9 percent three months ago and 4.1 percent in April.

Underpinning that bleaker scenario are the assumptions that Europe will continue to ease monetary policy and that the U.S. will avert a crushing blow to growth by fending off a so-called “fiscal cliff” that could result from a failure to reach a compromise on its budget law and tax cuts.

Conditions could worsen if the United States doesn’t deal with its budget crisis soon, the



Greek Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras, left, talks with International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde, during the Eurogroup meeting, in Luxembourg, Monday Oct. 8, 2012.

IMF said.

“Downside risks have increased and are considerable,” the fund said. It said its forecasts are based “on critical policy action in the euro area

and the United States, and it is very difficult to estimate the probability that this action will materialize.”

The IMF has urged the U.S. to raise the ceiling on the level

of debt the government can issue, which is capped by law. In August 2011, a battle between the Obama administration and Congress over raising the limit wasn’t resolved until the U.S. almost defaulted on its debt.

Global efforts to ease credit and increase the amount of money available for lending are helping, but appear to be yielding diminishing returns, as are fiscal stimulus policies, the IMF warned.

“Because uncertainty is high, confidence is low, and financial sectors are weak, the significant fiscal achievements have been accompanied by disappointing growth or recessions,” it said.

Among other things, it says governments need to do more to relieve the burden of household debt that is constraining spending power and thus crippling demand.

While large corporations pay record low rates for credit, households and small companies struggle to obtain bank loans, it said.

Fortifying domestic demand is all the more crucial given weakening trade trends. The IMF forecasts that growth in world trade volume will

slump to 3.2 percent this year from 5.8 percent last year and 12.6 percent in 2010.

“Low growth and uncertainty in advanced economies are affecting emerging market and developing economies through both trade and financial channels, adding to homegrown weaknesses,” the IMF’s chief economist, Olivier Blanchard, said in a statement.

Still, the IMF raised the U.S. growth forecast slightly, to 2.2 percent this year from 2 percent in July. For 2013, though, it expects U.S. growth of 2.1 percent, down from 2.3 percent.

Among the 17 nations that use the euro, low growth in the major “core economies,” such

as Germany and France, will be offset by outright contractions in the smaller economies, leading real gross domestic product to fall by about 0.4 percent in 2012, the IMF said.

It forecasts growth in the euro area will stay flat in the first half of 2013 and tick up to about 1 percent in the second half of the year, the IMF said.

The report was released just ahead of the World Bank-IMF annual meeting, which is being held in Tokyo this week. The gathering of some 10,000 bankers, executives and officials will likely refocus attention on Japan’s failure to escape its own economic slump two decades after its own financial implosion in the early 1990s.

GM moves to bring computer technology in-house

DETROIT (AP)—Now hiring in Detroit: Scads of software developers and programmers.

General Motors is moving past layoffs and the Motor City’s rusty, low-tech image. It’s setting out on its own to develop software and invent the most advanced gizmos for your car.

The nation’s biggest automaker plans to hire up to 10,000 computer professionals in the next three-to-five years as it tries to lead the auto industry with cutting-edge technology.

It’s a bold and expensive move, counter to the industry’s history of buying software and other electronic applications from outside companies. Experts say it’s also the start of a trend as manufacturers realize that software is among the few things that will set them apart from competitors.

“The companies that build the software themselves in general are going to have an advantage,” says David Kirkpatrick, author of a book about Facebook and CEO of Technomy Media Inc., a New York firm that specializes in setting up technology conferences. “If you outsource the development of software in particular to others,

you can risk ... your own ability to compete in the future.”

General Motors Co. isn’t alone in trying to move more technology development under its roof. But the plans of its biggest competitor, Ford Motor Co., aren’t nearly as ambitious.

GM’s aims to bring 90 percent of its computer technology work into the company by recruiting workers to four new information technology centers around the nation. Ford recently joined GM, BMW AG and Renault-Nissan in opening a technology office in California’s Silicon Valley, although it’s staffed by only about 15 people.

GM’s first “Information Technology Innovation Center” was announced last month in Austin, Texas, with plans to hire 500 programmers and software experts. And Monday the carmaker unveiled plans to hire 1,500 more at a second computer center in Warren, Mich., on the campus of its big tech center. GM already has product designers, engineers and other technical experts at the site, including the team that created the Chevrolet Volt electric car.

The other two sites haven’t been revealed.

Soda industry: Vending machines will show calories

NEW YORK (AP)—As criticism of sugary sodas intensifies, Coke, Pepsi and Dr Pepper are rolling out new vending machines that will put calorie counts right at your fingertips.

The move comes ahead of a regulation that would require restaurant chains and vending machines to post the information as early as next year, although the specifics for complying with the requirement are still being worked out.

“They’re seeing the writing on the wall and want to say that it’s corporate responsibility,” said Mike Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest,

which advocates for food safety and nutrition.

Still, he noted that it was an important step forward. “Currently, people don’t think about calories when they go up to a vending machine,” he said. “Having the calories right on the button will help them make choices.”

The American Beverage Association, which represents Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo Inc. and Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc., said the calorie counts will be on the buttons people press to select a drink. Vending machines will also feature small decals, such as “Calories Count: Check Then Choose.”

The vending machines will launch in Chicago and San Antonio municipal buildings in 2013 before appearing nationally.

Without providing specifics, the American Beverage Association said the machines will also boost the availability of lower- and zero-calorie drinks.

“We have market research that says consumers really like this—they like choice, they like the ability to make choices,” said Susan Neely, president of the industry group.

A mock-up of a new machine provided by Coca-Cola showed 20-ounce bottles of its flagship drink and Sprite inside vending

machines, with labels on the buttons stating “240 calories.”

The soda industry has been under fire for fueling rising obesity rates. Last month, New York City approved a first-in-the-nation plan to prohibit the sale of sugary drinks over 16 ounces in the city’s restaurants, movie theaters and stadiums.

Notably, the beverage industry fought aggressively to fight the ban and hasn’t ruled out taking legal action to stop it from taking effect this spring.

This November, voters in Richmond, Calif. will also decide whether to approve a penny-per-ounce tax on sugary drinks.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BankPacific launches MyCloudBanking

BankPacific announces the launch of MyCloudBanking in the Commonwealth today, a new suite of mobile banking and apps. With MyCloudBanking, BankPacific customers can access applications from their iPhone App Store or Android Pay Store. All apps are free to BankPacific customers. BlackBerry users can also access using bankpacific.com and book

marking. MyCloudBanking allows individuals to access their accounts on the go to check balances, pay bills, transfer funds, identify the nearest ATM and BankPacific office, and more. It’s convenient, secure, and now. “Our customers asked and we’re happy to deliver the most modern and convenient banking available with MyCloudBanking,” said BankPacific president Philip Flores. “Now the Sky’s the Limit.”

BankPacific is celebrating its 58th year of Banking on the Pacific. The bank has offices in Guam, Saipan, and Palau. *(BankPacific)*

Oil prices fall after warning from World Bank

NEW YORK (AP)—A strong warning from the World Bank that growth in Asia may slow further dragged the price of oil Monday to its lowest close

in two months. The World Bank signaled the possibility of a “more pronounced slowdown” in China, the world’s second largest economy after the United States. It also cut its growth forecast for Asia. Red-hot growth in emerging markets like China and India helped boost oil consumption coming out of the global recession. Benchmark crude fell 55 cents to close at \$89.33 in New York. The contract hasn’t

closed lower since Aug. 2.

American Airlines CEO acknowledges rough few weeks

NEW YORK (AP)—American Airlines’ CEO acknowledges that passengers have had a rough few weeks on the airline but says the carrier is working through its issues. “The operational performance is improving,” CEO Tom Horton said in an interview with The Associated Press on Mon-

day. “We’ll get past this just like other airlines before us have.”

The airline, which has been in bankruptcy protection since November, saw its on-time performance drop to 59 percent in September, according to Flightstats.com. In that same period Delta, Southwest and U.S. Airways were all above 85 percent. The airline has blamed the delays on pilots writing up extra maintenance requests as part of an unsanctioned job action.

Nation

Obama looks to regroup; Romney appears confident

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the White House race shows signs of tightening nationally, President Barack Obama's campaign is banking on a massive get-out-the-vote operation and state-by-state shades of economic improvement to maintain its apparent polling edge in battlegrounds from Ohio to Virginia.

Republican Mitt Romney, reenergized by last week's debate, is flashing new confidence on the campaign trail and pressing toward the political center on both foreign and domestic issues. But aides have outlined no clear path to winning the 270 Electoral College votes required to gain the White House.

"Things are going pretty good," the usually cautious Romney said Monday with a smile.

Among Democrats, the swagger of the previous few weeks has all but vanished since the debate.

"Ultimately this is a tight race, and it's going to remain a tight race until the end," said Bill Burton, who runs Priorities USA Action, a pro-Obama super political action committee.

Indeed, one month from Election Day, polls show a close race. And with millions of Americans already voting and the potential for game-changing moments diminishing, the candidates have little room for error as they seek to sway a narrow swath of undecided voters.

Obama aides acknowledge Romney's strong turn on the debate stage helped him shift gears from a rocky September. But they also argue that Romney's momentum was arrested somewhat by a Friday jobs report showing the unemployment rate declined to 7.8 percent, the lowest level of Obama's presidency.



President Barack Obama speaks during a campaign event at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in San Francisco.

They say the president was thrown during the debate by what they call Romney's willingness to abandon his previous positions, including his \$5 trillion tax cut proposal. In the next debate—and in television advertisements before then—the Democrat and his aides are expected to accuse Romney of lying about his own plans.

Romney's team, meanwhile, is tempering expectations that tightening national polls will translate into success on the ground in the key states most likely to decide the race. Things may be moving in the right direction, they say, but significant work remains.

Still, they're seeking to paint Obama's campaign as desperate.

"It seems pretty clear that their new strategy is basically just call us liars, to descend down into a mud pit and hopefully, with enough mudslinging back and forth and distortion, people will get demoralized and they can win by default," said Romney running mate Paul Ryan.

Both Democrats and Republicans say internal campaign surveys following last week's debate show Romney has cut into the lead Obama had built up in many key battleground states. But they say Obama still has an advantage in most of the nine or so critical states, including Ohio and Virginia. A lack of independent polling makes it difficult to know whether that's true. Romney pulled ahead of Obama, 49

to 45 percent nationally, among likely voters according to a Pew Research Center poll conducted after the debate.

In a foreign policy speech at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., on Monday, Romney cast himself as a statesman who would be part of a long, bipartisan tradition of American leadership in the world. He said the U.S. should use its power "wisely, with solemnity and without false pride, but also firmly and actively."

At the same time, he is moving away from some of the more conservative positions he pressed during the GOP primary. The shift is aimed at appealing to the independents and disaffected members of both parties who could swing the race. He is to deliver at least two more policy speeches in the coming weeks focused on job growth and debt and spending.

As Obama's aides worked to poke holes in Romney's foreign policy address, Obama declared a national monument at the Keene, Calif., home of Latino labor leader Cesar Chavez, the United Farmworkers Union founder who died in 1993.

Sure to appeal to some Hispanic voters in swing states, Obama's move came at the start of a day in which he also was raising political cash at events in San Francisco, as his campaign closed in on \$1 billion in donations. Democrats said the \$181 million they raised in September would allow Obama to keep advertising heavily on television in all battleground states and fully fund major registration and early voting efforts in the campaign's crucial final weeks.

Skydiver eyes record-breaking jump over NM

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP)—Skydiver Felix Baumgartner's attempt at the highest, fastest free fall in history Tuesday is more than just a stunt.

His planned 23-mile dive from the stratosphere should provide scientists with valuable information for next-generation spacesuits and techniques that could help astronauts survive accidents.

Jumping from more than three times the height of the average cruising altitude for jetliners, Baumgartner hopes to become the first person to break the sound barrier outside of an airplane. His team has calculated that to be 690 mph based on the altitude of his dive.

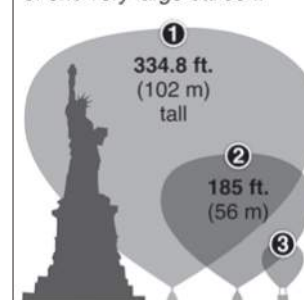
His medical director Dr. Jonathan Clark, a NASA space shuttle crew surgeon who lost his wife, Laurel Clark, in the 2003 Columbia accident, says no one knows what happens to a body when it breaks the sound barrier.

"That is really the scientific essence of this mission," said Clark, who is dedicated to improving astronauts' chances of survival in a high-altitude disaster.

Clark told reporters Monday he expects Baumgartner's pressurized spacesuit to protect him. If all goes well and he survives the death-defying jump, NASA could certify a

Bigger is better

Felix Baumgartner is attempting the highest and fastest free fall with the help of one very large balloon.



- 1 Balloon used in attempt
Target altitude
120,000 ft. (36,576 m)
- 2 Balloon used in previous world record set in 1960
Altitude reached
102,800 ft. (31,333 m)
- 3 Typical hot air balloon
Altitude 2,000 ft (6,096 m)

Source: Red Bull Stratos
Graphic: Melina Yingling

© 2012 MCT

new generation of spacesuits for protecting astronauts, and provide an escape option, from spacecraft at 120,000 feet.

Currently, spacesuits are certified to protect astronauts to 100,000 feet, the level reached by Joe Kittinger in 1960 when he set the current free-fall record by jumping from an open gondola 19.5 miles high. Kittinger's speed of 614 mph was just shy of breaking the sound barrier at that altitude.

13,000 got suspect steroid shots; risk uncertain

NEW YORK (AP)—As many as 13,000 people received steroid shots suspected in a national meningitis outbreak, health officials said Monday. But it's not clear how many are in danger.

Officials don't know many of the shots may have been contaminated with meningitis-causing fungus tied to the outbreak. And the figure includes not only those who got them in the back for pain—who are most at risk—but also those who got the shots in other places, like knees and shoulders.

Those injected in joints are not believed to be at risk for fungal meningitis, said Curtis Allen, a spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He said there was no breakdown available of how

many had the shots in the back or in joints.

The CDC count of cases reached 105 on Monday, including eight deaths. A ninth death was reported late Monday by a Nashville, Tenn., hospital.

Tennessee has the most cases, followed by Michigan, Virginia, Indiana, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina and Ohio.

All had received shots for back pain, and investigators suspect a steroid medication made by a specialty pharmacy. About 17,700 single-dose vials of the steroid sent to 23 states have been recalled. Inspectors found at least one sealed vial contaminated with fungus, and tests were being done on other vials.

The first known case of the

rarely seen fungal meningitis was diagnosed last month in Tennessee. The steroid maker, New England Compounding Center of Framingham, Mass., recalled the drug, and over the weekend recalled everything else it makes.

"While there is no indication at this time of any contamination in other NECC products, this recall is being taken as a precautionary measure," the company said in a statement.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, and a back injection would put any contaminant in more direct contact with that lining.

Symptoms on meningitis include severe headache, nausea, dizziness and fever. The CDC

said many of the cases have been mild and some people had strokes. Symptoms have been appearing between one and four weeks after patients got the shots.

A Michigan man whose wife's death was linked to the outbreak said Monday that he, too, was treated with steroids from one of the recalled batches.

"Not only have I lost my wife, but I'm watching the clock to see if anything develops," George Cary said, as friends and family gathered for his wife's wake in Howell, 60 miles northwest of Detroit.

His wife, Lilian, 67, had been ill since late August, but meningitis wasn't detected until Sept. 22, her husband said. She suffered a stroke and died Sept. 30, he said.

Sandusky, victims plan to speak at sentencing

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP)—Jerry Sandusky and at least some of his victims plan to address the judge at his sentencing, a proceeding that may last less than two hours, lawyers said after a closed-door meeting to iron out logistics ahead of the Tuesday hearing.

Sandusky lawyer Joe Amendola said "it's as certain as certain can be" that the former Penn State assistant football coach will speak to Judge John Cleland and assert his innocence before he is sentenced on 45 counts of child sexual abuse.

"What I anticipate he'll say is he's innocent," Amendola said outside the courthouse Monday afternoon.

Amendola said he did not expect any others to speak on Sandusky's behalf, although friends and family members—including his wife, Dottie—have written letters of support. Dottie Sandusky plans to attend the hearing, he said.

Given the number of charges, the serious nature of his crimes and his age, the 68-year-old

Sandusky faces the likelihood of a sentence that will send him to state prison for the rest of his life. Sandusky was convicted in June of abusing 10 boys over 15 years, including some attacks inside Penn State athletic facilities.

"The important thing for us is, it starts the appellate process," Amendola said.

One element of the appeal is expected to be a claim that the defense did not have time to adequately prepare for trial. Sandusky was charged in November, following a lengthy investigation.

Tom Kline, lawyer for a young man who said Sandusky groped him in a shower when he was 12 or 13, said his client plans to read a statement Tuesday.

"He's going to tell the judge how this has affected him, how it's been painful and difficult," Kline said.

Lead prosecutor Joe McGittigan said as many as a half-dozen victims are expected to be heard.

Asia

NKorea says South, US are within its missile range

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea warned Tuesday that the U.S. mainland is within range of its missiles, saying Washington's recent agreement to let Seoul possess missiles capable of hitting all of the North shows the allies are plotting to invade the country.

Seoul announced Sunday it reached a deal with Washington that would allow it to nearly triple the range of its missiles to better cope with North Korean missile and nuclear threats.

On Tuesday, North Korea called the South Korea-U.S. missile deal a "product of another conspiracy of the master and the stooge" to "ignite a war" against the North.

An unidentified spokesman at the powerful National Defense Commission said the North will subsequently bolster its military preparedness and warned it has missiles capable of striking South Korea, Japan, Guam and the U.S. mainland.

"We do not hide ... the strategic rocket forces are keeping within the scope of strike not

only the bases of the puppet forces and the U.S. imperialist aggression forces' bases in the inviolable land of Korea but also Japan, Guam and the U.S. mainland," the spokesman said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

It's unusual for the North to say its missiles are capable of striking the U.S., but North Korea has regularly issued harsh rhetoric against Seoul and Washington.

Still, the North's statement could suggest the country has been working on miniaturizing a nuclear bomb to mount on a long-range rocket, though experts believe the country has yet to acquire such a technology. It could also back up what experts have been suspecting about the range of North Korean long-range rockets.

In April, the country conducted a rocket test that Washington, Seoul and others called a cover for a test of long-range missile technology. North Korea says the rocket, which

broke apart shortly after lift-off, was meant to launch a satellite. North Korea conducted underground nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korean studies professor based in Seoul, said the North had no choice but to respond to South Korea's extended missile range but it won't likely launch a provocation as it is waiting for the results of U.S. and South Korean presidential elections.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Tuesday it has no official comments on the North's statement, but Seoul and Washington have repeatedly said they have no intention of attacking North Korea.

Under the new deal with the U.S., South Korea will be able to possess ballistic missiles with a range of up to 800 kilometers (500 miles). South Korea will continue to limit the payload to 500 kilograms for ballistic missiles with an 800-kilometer range, but it will be able to use heavier payloads for missiles with shorter ranges.

Decade after Bali, Indonesian terror aims at govt

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—Ten years after terrorist attacks at two Bali nightclubs killed more than 200 people, mostly foreign tourists, Indonesia has won international praise for its counterterrorism efforts. Militant organizations have been fractured and many of their charismatic leaders have been killed or jailed.

But an Associated Press analysis shows the number of strikes within the country has actually risen, especially since 2010, when radical imams called on their followers to focus on domestic targets rather than Westerners. The more recent attacks have been conducted with less expertise, and the vast majority of victims have been Indonesians.

"It turns out that the terrorism problem in Indonesia is not finished yet," said Maj. Gen. Tito Karnavian, a former counterterrorism official recently appointed police chief of Papua

province. "The quality of their attacks has decreased, but the quantity has increased."

Since Oct. 12, 2002, when the Bali attacks killed 202 people—including 88 Australians and seven Americans—four major terror strikes were targeted at Westerners in Indonesia, causing 45 deaths. The last was in 2009, when attacks on the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta killed seven people.

That compares to 15 attacks against security forces, local authorities, Christians and some moderate Muslims in just the past two years. Those attacks have killed a total of 11 people—all police officers—and wounded dozens of civilians.

Although the targets may have shifted, the recruitment methods are the same. Young men are indoctrinated to believe that as jihadist "grooms" they will reap God's rewards for

martyrdom—paradise for the bomber and 70 family members and the gift of 72 virgin angels. It's a belief shunned by most Muslims.

Fadlan, a convicted militant who goes by a single alias name, was trained to be a suicide bomber in 2001 by Jemaah Islamiyah, the al-Qaida-linked group that sent two other bombers to the Bali nightclubs on a busy Saturday night. He told AP that his mentor, Imam Samudra, one of the plot masterminds, deemed it too risky to use him in the attacks because he was already wanted for an earlier botched bombing.

Today, Fadlan believes he would be in paradise if he had been picked.

"I still believe it ... because it's not promised by my recruiter, but God," Fadlan said softly in a mosque near his house in central Jakarta.

demonstration demanding a thorough investigation into the attack. About 500 lawyers and staff wearing black headbands marched in front of Colombo's court complex. They carried a coffin, saying the weekend attack on Judge Manjula Tilakaratne represented the death of an independent judiciary. Later, they burned the coffin. They held placards reading: "Stand up to protect the judiciary. Protect lives of judges. Arrest those who attacked a judge."

It was heading to Beijing before going to its ultimate destination of Istanbul. The official Xinhua News Agency said the flight resumed after a four-hour security check.

Sri Lankan judges boycott courts over attack
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan judges and lawyers boycotted courts on Monday to protest an assault on an outspoken judge, and hundreds of lawyers staged a

World

Nobel awarded for stem cell, early cloning work

NEW YORK (AP)—Two scientists from different generations won the Nobel Prize in medicine Monday for the groundbreaking discovery that cells in the body can be reprogrammed into completely different kinds, work that reflects the mechanism behind cloning and offers an alternative to using embryonic stem cells.

The work of British researcher John Gurdon and Japanese scientist Shinya Yamanaka—who was born the year Gurdon made his discovery—holds hope for treating diseases like Parkinson's and diabetes by growing customized tissue for transplant.

And it has spurred a new generation of laboratory studies into other illnesses, including schizophrenia, which may lead to new treatments.

Basically, Gurdon, 79, and Yamanaka, 50, showed how to make the equivalent of embryonic stem cells without the ethical questions those very versatile cells pose, a promise scientists are now scrambling to fulfill.

Once created, these "blank slate" cells can be nudged toward developing into other cell types. Skin cells can ultimately be transformed into brain cells, for example.

Just last week, scientists reported turning skin cells from mice into eggs that produced baby mice, a possible step toward new fertility treatments.

Gurdon and Yamanaka performed "courageous experiments" that challenged



AP
In this Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 photo combo, British scientist John Gurdon, left, speaks in London, and Japanese scientist Shinya Yamanaka, right, speaks in Kyoto after they were named winners of the 2012 Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering that mature, specialized cells of the body can be reprogrammed into stem cells—a discovery that scientists hope to turn into new treatments.

scientific opinion, said Doug Melton, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

"Their work shows ... that while cells might be specialized to do one thing, they have the potential to do something else," Melton said. It "really lays the groundwork for all the excitement about stem cell biology."

Another Harvard stem cell researcher, Dr. George Daley said, "I don't think anybody is surprised" by the award announcement. "The fact that these two share it together is inspired."

In announcing the \$1.2 million award, the Nobel committee at Stockholm's Karolinska Institute said the work has "revolutionized our understanding of how cells and organisms develop."

Gurdon showed in 1962 that DNA from specialized cells of

tadpoles, like skin or intestinal cells, could be used to clone more tadpoles. In 1997, the same process led to the cloning of Dolly the sheep, showing it would also work in mammals.

Gurdon told reporters in London that at the time of his discovery, it had "no obvious therapeutic benefit at all. ... It was almost 50 years before the value—the potential value—of that basic scientific research came to light."

Forty-four years after Gurdon's discovery, in 2006, Yamanaka and his team moved beyond tadpoles. They showed that a surprisingly simple recipe could turn mouse skin cells back into primitive cells, which in turn could be prodded into different kinds of mature cells. The work was later repeated with human cells.

Mexico navy: Zetas cartel leader apparently killed

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Top Zetas drug cartel leader Heriberto Lazcano has apparently been killed in a firefight with marines in the northern border state of Coahuila, the Mexican navy said Monday.

The navy said there was strong evidence the body of one of two men killed in the shootout was Lazcano, known as "El Lazca." But it added that more forensics tests would have to be carried out to confirm the identification.

"Information was obtained after the first forensics tests were carried out that yielded indications that suggest that one of the bodies is Heriberto Lazcano," the navy's statement said.

"The Navy Department is coordinating efforts with Coahuila state, and will be awaiting the conclusions of the forensics examination in the case," the statement said.

The death of Lazcano

would be a major victory for Mexican law enforcement. The Zetas cartel that he helped found with other deserters from an elite army unit went on to carry out some of Mexico's bloodiest massacres, biggest jail breaks and fiercest attacks on authorities.

Lazcano, who is also known as "El Verdugo" (the Executioner) for his brutality, is suspected in hundreds of killings, including the June 2004 slaying of Francisco Ortiz Franco, a top editor of a crusading weekly newspaper in Tijuana that often reported on drug trafficking. Ortiz Franco was gunned down in front of his two young children as he left a clinic.

The United States has offered a \$5 million reward and Mexico an additional \$2.3 million for information leading to Lazcano's arrest.

Under Lazcano's leader-

ship, the Zetas recruited more hit men, many of them former Mexican soldiers, and hired "kaibiles," Guatemalan soldiers trained in counterinsurgency, transforming what had been a small group of assassins into a ruthless gang of enforcers for the Gulf cartel. The Zetas also were in charge of protecting the Gulf cartel's drug shipments.

The Zetas finally split from their former bosses in 2010 and have since been fighting a vicious battle for control of the drug business in northeastern Mexico, the traditional home base of the Gulf cartel. The result has been a surge of drug-related killings.

Lazcano "is credited with strengthening the organization ... he created a new structure of regional cells that specialize in specific crimes," Mexican federal prosecutors say in their profile of Lazcano.



ASIAN BRIEFS

China holds 1 over hoax that forced plane landing

BEIJING (AP)—Police in China have detained a suspect they say made a fake terror threat that forced a passenger plane bound for Turkey to make an emergency landing, state media said Tuesday. The China Southern flight landed in Gansu province's Lanzhou city Monday night several hours after departing Urumqi, the capital of the restive Xinjiang region.

Focus

Afghan war enters 12th year



In this Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012 photo, Wahidullah, 32, whose spine was pierced by a bullet during the civil war that left him crippled, poses for a photograph in front of Darul Aman Palace which was damaged during the civil war in Kabul, Afghanistan. Wahidullah was a teenager when he fought in west Kabul during the civil war.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Nobody wants a repeat of the bloody ethnic fighting that followed the Soviet exit from Afghanistan in the 1990s—least of all 32-year-old Wahidullah who was crippled by a bullet that pierced his spine during the civil war.

Yet as the Afghan war began its 12th year on Sunday, fears loom that the country will again fracture along ethnic lines once international combat forces leave by the end of 2014.

“It was a very bad situation,” said Wahidullah, who was a teenager when he was wounded in the 1992-1996 civil war. “All these streets around here were full of bullet shells, burned tanks and vehicles,” he added, squinting into a setting sun that cast a golden glow on the bombed-out Darulaman Palace still standing in west Kabul not far from where he was wounded.

“People could not find bread or water, but rockets were everywhere,” said Wahidullah, who now hobbles around on red-handled crutches. He goes by one name only, as do many Afghans.

The dilapidated palace is a reminder of the horror of the civil war when rival factions—who had joined forces against Soviet fighters before they left in early 1989—turned their guns on each other. Tens of thousands of

civilians were killed.

Fed up with the bloodletting, the Afghan people longed for someone—anyone—who would restore peace and order. The Taliban did so.

But once in power, they imposed harsh Islamic laws that repressed women and they publicly executed, stoned and lashed people for alleged crimes and sexual misconduct. The Taliban also gave sanctuary to al-Qaida in the run-up to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. When the Taliban refused to give up the al-Qaida leaders who orchestrated 9/11, the U.S. invaded on Oct. 7, 2001.

Eleven years later, Afghanistan remains divided and ethnic tension still simmers.

The Taliban, dominated by the ethnic Pashtun majority, have strongholds in the south. Ethnic minorities such as Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks live predominantly in central and northern Afghanistan. The fear is that when international forces leave, minority groups will take up arms to prevent another Taliban takeover and that members of the Afghan security forces could walk off the government force and fight with their ethnic leaders.

Anxiety and confusion about what will happen after the foreign forces leave permeates every aspect of society. Political

debate about an Afghanistan post-2014 is getting more vocal. Some political leaders threaten to take up arms while others preach progress, development and peace. Young Afghans with money and connections are trying to flee the country before 2014.

There also is mounting uncertainty about the upcoming transfer of power. At the same time that foreign troops are scheduled to complete their withdrawal in 2014, Afghans will go to the polls to elect a successor to President Hamid Karzai, who is barred by the constitution from running for a third term.

The Afghan people already view their government as weak and corrupt and those doubtful of a peaceful future say that if the upcoming presidential election is rigged and yields an illegitimate leader, civil war could erupt between ethnic groups backed by neighboring countries trying to influence Afghanistan's future.

“Unfortunately in Afghanistan, we do not have any political unity,” said Gen. Sayed Hussain Anwari, a former governor of Kabul and Herat provinces who led fighters during the civil war.

Speaking in emotional, rapid-fire sentences at his home in Kabul, Anwari says that the Taliban have a right to participate in the political process.

“But if the scenario changes and they come to power by force, there will be groups that won't go with the Taliban and the fighting will continue,” he said.

Ghairat Baheer offers an even gloomier prediction. Baheer is a representative and son-in-law of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a key civil war leader in the 1990s whose fighters attack foreign troops today. He warns that the current Afghan government will collapse with the international troop withdrawal and says civil war is likely without a peace agreement.

“The realities are that the government is not sustainable,” he said in a telephone interview. “Anti-Americanism and anti-western sentiment is increasing daily in Afghanistan and the resistance is spreading day-by-day across the country.”

Fahim Dashti was with Ahmad Shah Massoud, the charismatic Tajik leader who commanded the Northern Alliance of minority groups, when he was fatally wounded by two terrorists posing as journalists two days before the Sept. 11 attacks. Dashti's face and hands were burned when one of the journalists blew himself up as the interview began. Even now, Dashti's hands are not strong enough to twist the cap off a bottle of water.

Despite his experience, Dashti, who now directs the National

Journalists' Union in Afghanistan, doesn't think his country is headed toward a civil war.

“I do share the concerns of the people, no doubt. But there are some positive points such as the (growing) capability and the ability of the Afghan security forces,” he said in his office.

Donor nations have pledged to continue supporting the Afghan forces, which will avoid civil war and prevent Afghanistan from becoming a sanctuary for international terrorists again, Dashti said. He's more worried about the upcoming presidential race.

“There is no one-man solution,” he said, adding that a team of leaders from all ethnic factions needs to be assembled to lead the nation forward.

Gen. Majid Rouzi, who also commanded fighters in the civil war and is now an adviser at the Afghan Interior Ministry, agrees.

“Nobody has any justification for rearming,” he said, sitting cross-legged on a rug in his home in Kabul. “The Taliban coming again? It is not possible. A factional war is not coming.”

However, Gen. Sahki Dad Ghafel, who led 1,500 troops fighting under Hazara commander Abdul Ali Mazari during the civil war, says civil strife is inevitable unless a peace can be reached with the Taliban before 2014. And he's not op-

timistic that the Taliban will renounce violence, moderate their hardline ways and participate in the political process.

“Maybe if there is a deal between America, Pakistan and the Taliban, the Taliban might come with the tie instead of the turban,” Ghafel, a round-faced military man with a small black mustache, said snacking on green grapes and melon in his office. “If the foreign troops leave, there will not be a good result. I am not confident about the future. I'm not optimistic.”

Karzai has called for national unity and has tried to reassure his people that Afghanistan will not collapse when the troops leave.

“If the foreigners are not here, we are nothing?” he asked sarcastically at a news conference last week: “We were not a nation before NATO and the Americans came?”

Karzai claims there has been a decline in violence in areas where Afghan troops are taking over from U.S. and NATO forces and that Afghan policemen and soldiers will be strong enough to provide security in the future. He blames the media for scaring Afghans into thinking they have no future once the international coalition leaves. Those who share Karzai's optimism argue that despite reports of drug use and unprofessionalism, Afghan security forces—now 352,000 strong—will be capable of securing the nation by international troops leave.

Coalition officials claim they have battered the Taliban and that while they are capable of staging suicide bombings and insider attacks, the insurgents cannot defeat the Afghan forces on the battlefield. They contend that keeping up the pressure on insurgents will push Taliban leaders to the negotiating table and that the international community's pledge to bankroll the Afghan army and police force in coming years will support the Afghan government as it works to provide better governance.

The more pessimistic view is that the Afghan forces won't be up to the task.

The joint international and Afghan force is fighting a losing battle, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in a statement marking the 11th anniversary of the start of the war. Mujahid claims the Taliban have infiltrated the Afghan forces and are responsible for the rash of insider attacks that have left more than 50 U.S. and NATO forces dead at the hands of their would-be Afghan partners so far this year.

“Right now, the foreigners are in a position where they are just trying to escape,” Mujahid said.

Campus Life

High court looks at race in college admissions

By MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nine years after the Supreme Court said colleges and universities can use race in their quest for diverse student bodies, the justices have put this divisive social issue back on their agenda in the middle of a presidential election campaign.

Nine years is a blink of the eye on a court where justices can look back two centuries for legal precedents. But with an ascendant conservative majority, the high court in arguments Wednesday will weigh whether to limit or even rule out taking race into account in college admissions.

The justices will be looking at the University of Texas program that is used to help fill the last quarter or so of its incoming freshman classes. Race is one of many factors considered by admissions officers. The rest of the roughly 7,100 freshman spots automatically go to Texans who graduated in the top 8 percent of their high school classes.

A white Texan, Abigail Fisher, sued the university after she was denied a spot in 2008.

The simplest explanation for why affirmative action is back on the court's calendar so soon after its 2003 decision in *Grutter v. Bollinger* is that the author of that opinion, Sandra Day O'Connor, has retired. Her successor, Justice Samuel Alito, has been highly skeptical of any use of racial preference.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, a



In this Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012 photo, students walk through the University of Texas at Austin campus in Austin, Texas. This giant flagship campus—once so slow to integrate—is now awash in color, among the most diverse the country if not the world.

dissenter in the 2003 decision, probably holds the deciding vote, and he, too, has never voted in favor of racial preference.

As a result, said Supreme Court lawyer Thomas Goldstein, "No matter what the court does, it is quite likely that the UT program is going to be in big trouble."

The challenge to the Texas plan has gained traction in part because the university has produced significant diversity by automatically offering about three-quarters of its spots to graduates in the top 10 percent of their Texas high schools, under a 1990s state law signed by then-Gov. George W. Bush. The admissions program has

been changed so that now only the top 8 percent gain automatic admission.

More than eight in ten African-American and Latino students who enrolled at the flagship campus in Austin last year were automatically admitted, according to university statistics. Even among the rest, both sides acknowledge that the use of race is modest.

In all, black and Hispanic students made up more than a quarter of the incoming freshmen class. White students constituted less than half the entering class when students with Asian backgrounds and other minorities were added in.

"For decades, the defense of

racial preferences was, 'We'd love to find a way to get diversity without using race, but it's just not possible. There's just no other way.' And Texas found another way," said Richard Kahlenburg, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation and prominent advocate of class-based affirmative action.

The university says the extra measure of diversity it gets from the slots outside automatic admission is crucial because too many of its classrooms have only token minority representation, at best. At the same time, Texas argues that race is one of many factors considered and that it "is impossible to tell whether an applicant's race was

a tipping factor."

The Obama administration, 57 of the Fortune 100 companies and large numbers of public and private colleges that could be affected by the outcome are backing the Texas program. Among the benefits of affirmative action, the administration argues, is that it creates a pipeline for a diverse officer corps that it called "essential to the military's operational readiness." In 2003, the court cited the importance of a similar message from military leaders.

But lawyers for Fisher, of Sugar Land, Texas, said the race-blind method under which the university automatically admits most of its students has been successful. They say Fisher, who has since graduated from Louisiana State University, was excluded because of her race, and they point to a handful of African-American and Latino students who were admitted with lower scores than hers.

"If any state action should respect racial equality, it is university admission," Fisher's lawyers said in their written submission to the court.

The university says that a fuller picture of the process shows that white students with lower scores also were admitted, while many more minority students with higher scores than Fisher also were not offered admission.

The case also raises several contentious side issues, including whether affirmative-action programs hurt the very people they are supposed to be helping. A new book by law professor

Richard Sander and journalist Stuart Taylor argues that "large preferences often place students in environments where they can neither learn nor compete effectively, even though these same students would thrive had they gone to less competitive but still quite good schools."

Their book, "Mismatch," says these students are set up to fail, getting lower grades and dropping out more often than white students with similar backgrounds.

Taylor and Sander, a law professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, point to statistics in California to support their argument. After voters changed the state constitution to outlaw racial preferences, UCLA saw significant declines in enrollment by black and Hispanic students.

But the number of African-American and Latino graduates was unchanged for the five classes after the ban when compared to the five years before the change in state law, they said.

The dozens of legal briefs in the Texas case also highlight a debate over whether racial preference programs actually limit the number of students from Asian backgrounds, who are disproportionately represented in student bodies relative to their share of the population.

The university says Asian-American enrollment has increased under the policy that is being challenged. The numbers would be even higher if Texas stopped factoring in race, Fisher and others say.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Worried your kids spend too much time with their faces buried in a computer screen? Their schoolwork may soon depend on it.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan called Tuesday for the nation to move as fast as possible away from printed textbooks and toward digital ones. "Over the next few years, textbooks should be obsolete," he declared.

It's not just a matter of keeping up with the times, Duncan said in remarks to the National Press Club. It's about keeping up with other countries whose students are leaving their American counterparts in the dust.

South Korea, which consistently outperforms the U.S. when it comes to educational outcomes, is moving far faster than the U.S. in adopting digital learning environments. One of the most wired countries in the world, South Korea has set

Education chief wants textbooks to go digital

By JOSH LEDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

a goal to go fully digital with its textbooks by 2015.

"The world is changing," Duncan said. "This has to be where we go as a country."

The transition to digital involves much more than scanning books and uploading them to computers, tablet devices or e-readers. Proponents describe a comprehensive shift to immersive, online learning experiences that engage students in a way a textbook never could.

A student studying algebra might click to watch a video clip explaining a new concept or property. If they get stuck, interactive help features could figure out the problem. Personalized quizzes ensure they're not missing anything—and if they are, bring them up to speed before

they move on to the next lesson. Social networking allows students to interact with teachers and each other even when school isn't in session.

Using digital textbooks, schools can save money on hard copies and get updated material to students more quickly. School districts may also be able to pick and choose their curriculum buffet-style. A district might choose one publisher's top-notch chapter on Shakespeare, but follow it with another publisher's section on Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter."

But adopting digital textbooks isn't as easy as a direc-

tive from Washington. States set their own processes for selecting and purchasing textbooks that match their needs.

Over the last two years, at least 22 states have taken major strides toward digital text-

books, said Douglas Levin, executive director of the State Educational Technology Directors Association. Until recently, Levin said, states struggled to collaborate because each had its own curricular standards, a particular burden for smaller states. That burden has been eased now that 48 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core standards, a

set of uniform benchmarks for math and reading.

"There are opportunities for the federal government to encourage states and districts not to reinvent the wheel," Levin said.

A school district in Huntsville, Ala., launched an effort over the summer to become the first district to transition fully to digital textbooks. To do that, the district must first ensure every student has either a laptop or a tablet computer. In California, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a pair of bills in September aiming to make his state a national leader in electronic college textbooks.

Still, many districts, already buckling from diminished budgets, don't have the bandwidth or the equipment to

make digital materials available to every student. That's created a new challenge for the educational publishing industry as it works to market products to district across the technological spectrum.

"We haven't produced anything that's print-only in over three years. One hundred percent of what we have is available to school districts electronically," said Vineet Madan, senior vice president of new ventures for McGraw-Hill Education.

A central tension in the movement toward digital materials is what it means for textbook publishers whose profits rely on replacing old, worn-out textbooks with new ones. Yet to be seen is whether textbooks, like music, will become easy to steal or copy without payment, or whether the industry will find new ways to make money off of teaching materials.



Duncan

Life&Style

Teenage sons' group showers are puzzling to their dad

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am the single dad of two teenage boys (17 and 18) who are both in high school. I am wondering about something they do with their friends. The boys take showers in large groups. When they come in from running or sports, or if a group is spending the night, they shower in groups of two, three or four. It's not like we have a huge shower—it's normal size.



Dear Abby

I know there's nothing sexual going on because I can hear them talking and joking around. When I asked the boys about this, they looked at me like I had two heads. They said it was just a social thing and the same as showering together after football in the school gym.

They also "air dry" after showers by walking around in towels, sometimes watching TV or goofing off for hours while in their towels. When going out, they get naked in the bathroom, fixing their hair, shaving, brushing their teeth, etc. It's like a big "nude fest" with them and their friends.

While I'm glad they are comfortable with their bodies and who they are, it still bothers me somewhat. Am I being a prude in thinking this is unusual or inappropriate?

STUMPED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR STUMPED: I see nothing inappropriate about what your sons and their friends are doing. Nor do I want to label you a prude. You are just not as comfortable in your skin as your sons and their "jock" friends are. Is it possible that they take after their mother?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend and I do everything together and I love her, so when she showed up at the gym in "booty shorts," I didn't say a word, even though they don't flatter her one bit. Heck, there's a mirror on every wall, so she must have liked what she saw, and it's none of my business.

When she wore them to a school sporting event, my husband accused me of being a "bad friend" for not telling her that her rear view was getting the wrong kind of attention. Some of the other parents in the bleachers were snickering.

I guess if the situation were reversed, I'd want my best friend to give me a hint, but I'm not exactly sure how to do it. Am I wrong to just keep my mouth shut and mind my own business?

ANONYMOUS IN A SMALL TOWN

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Allow me to provide a couple of hints. First, tell your friend when you are alone and can't be overheard, which will spare her unnecessary embarrassment. Second, ask, "When you bought those shorts, did you get a look at yourself from the back?" If she says no, provide her with a mirror so she can look over her shoulder at herself. Then explain that at the school event, some of the other parents were staring, and not too kindly.

You will be doing her a favor to speak up. That is what friendship is all about. And if she's smart, she'll thank you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I met this beautiful and awesome lady last Saturday and slept with her that night. Sunday, we spent most of the day texting back and forth. I asked her to dinner on Monday and she accepted. We did more texting on Tuesday night, which I initiated.

So, my question is, how much texting and pursuing is too much in trying to hang out with this woman? I'm really interested in her.

PRETTY COOL DUDE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR PRETTY COOL DUDE: How about giving her 24 hours to catch her breath? Because she keeps saying yes, the signs are good so far. Just be careful that in your enthusiasm your ardor doesn't come across as overwhelming. If you do all the chasing, you'll deprive her of the pleasure of chasing you back.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Nickelodeon TV says Romney skipped kids' questions

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mitt Romney may want to reconsider his campaign strategy involving the pint-size voters of tomorrow.

The Republican presidential candidate skipped the chance to take part in Nickelodeon's "Kids Pick the President" special that includes President Barack Obama, said Linda Ellerbee, the show's host and executive producer. The decision "disses" children, she said.

During last week's presidential debate, Romney vowed to cut federal funding for PBS while acknowledging it's the home of popular "Sesame Street" character Big Bird.

"Kids Pick the President: The Candidates," with videotaped questions for the candidates from youngsters nationwide, debuts Oct. 15 on the children's channel. Afterward, an online poll asks kids to make their pick.

Romney's campaign said "he simply didn't have time. He couldn't fit it in his schedule," Ellerbee said Monday.

His decision is disappointing because "answering kids' questions directly shows respect for the several million kids who will vote in Nickelodeon's 'Kids Pick the President' campaign," she said.

"That's several million kids who actually want to get in-



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney poses for photographs with students of Fairfield Elementary School, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in Fairfield, Va. AP

involved in the democratic process," Ellerbee said. "They don't deserve to be dissed. But former Gov. Romney also blew off Letterman and Big Bird, so I guess we're in good company."

The Romney campaign did not immediately respond to email and phone requests for comment.

Since 1992, when Nickelodeon began airing the Q&As, only two other candidates have declined to take part, Ellerbee

said: Democratic contender John Kerry said no in 2004, which prompted President George W. Bush to withdraw. Bush participated in 2000.

The online kids' polling has gotten the outcome right five out of six times, including Bush's reelection in 2004, Ellerbee said. Democratic contender Al Gore was the children's pick in 2000.

"It's not always that Democrats win" the poll, she said.

"It's not that we're some left-wing show and that's the only kids that watch us."

Nickelodeon has been in touch with Romney's representatives since April and they had been "encouraging" about prospects for the former Massachusetts governor's involvement, Ellerbee said.

The candidate has until Monday to reverse his decision, she said.

The double life of country star Scotty McCreery

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—As it turns out, Scotty McCreery can have it all.

The platinum-selling teen and former "American Idol" champ began his freshman year at North Carolina State University recently and he's managed to work out a schedule that allows him to balance his college education with his country music education.

"I made a 98 on my first math test," McCreery said. "I was pumped about that because math is not one of my best things."

It's not the first test McCreery has passed on his quick rise to fame, first winning Season 10

of "Idol," then becoming the youngest male to enter the Billboard 200 at No. 1. While the siren call of celebrity has had a strong pull, McCreery has said all along he also wants to maintain the normal life he'd been planning before he was swept away by "Idol."

That's why he chose N.C. State over a school closer to Nashville. He lives in an off-campus apartment in Raleigh with lifelong friends, just 15 or 20 minutes from his home in Garner and only an hour from Music City by plane. He goes to class on Mondays and Wednes-

days, where he's mostly been left alone to study by courteous fellow students. Then he either joins the Brad Paisley tour on the road or works with producer Mark Bright on writing and assembling songs for his next album.

He's even managed to slip in intramural football on Tuesdays. Well, most Tuesdays.

"Going to State, it gives me a chance to have a little bit of a home base, to have a little bit of normalcy—whatever normal is," McCreery said. "I think it's good for me as a person. I'm still figuring out what my normal is."



This April 1, 2012 file photo shows Scotty McCreery arriving at the 47th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas. AP

'Girls' star Lena Dunham gets 7-figure book deal



This Oct. 7, 2012 photo released by The New Yorker Festival shows Lena Dunham, creator and star of the HBO series "Girls," left, with TV critic Emily Nussbaum during The New Yorker Festival in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—"Girls" creator Lena Dunham has a seven-figure book deal with Random House.

The 26-year-old Dunham, who received Emmy nominations as producer, director, writer and actor for the HBO comedy, has an agreement for the essay collection "Not That Kind of Girl: A Young Woman Tells You What She's Learned."

"In the tradition of Helen Gur-

ley Brown, David Sedaris and Nora Ephron, Dunham's book will offer frank and funny advice on everything from sex to eating to traveling to work," Random House said in an announcement Monday. Dunham said in statement that she was eager "to produce the most thoughtful and personal book" she could.

Random House spokeswoman Theresa Zoro said that no publication date has been set.

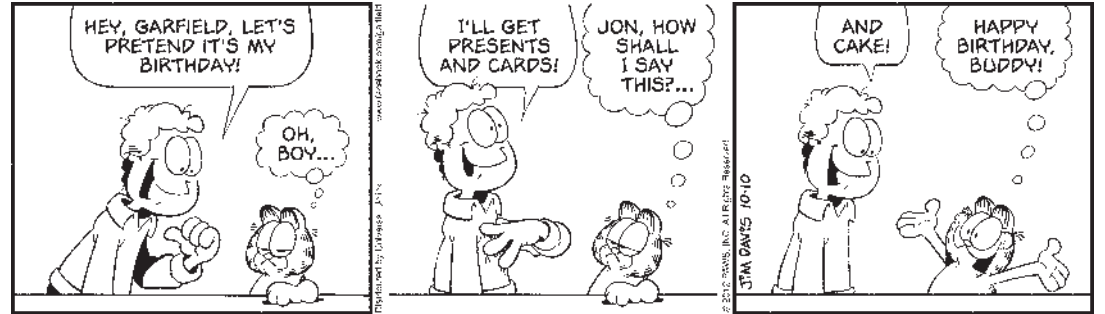
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

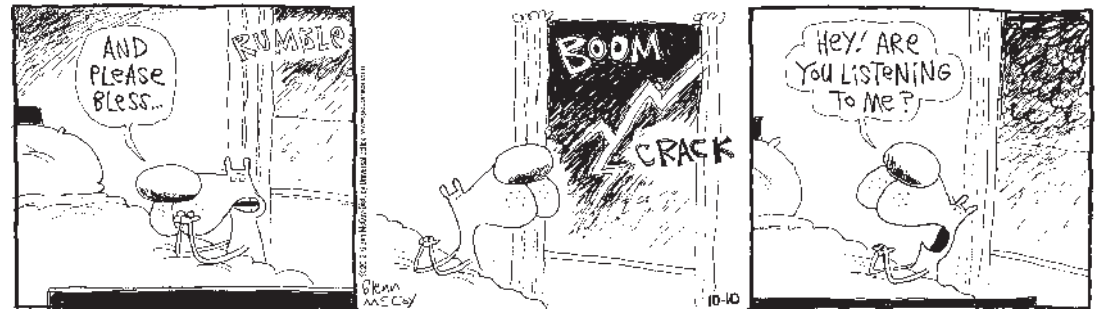
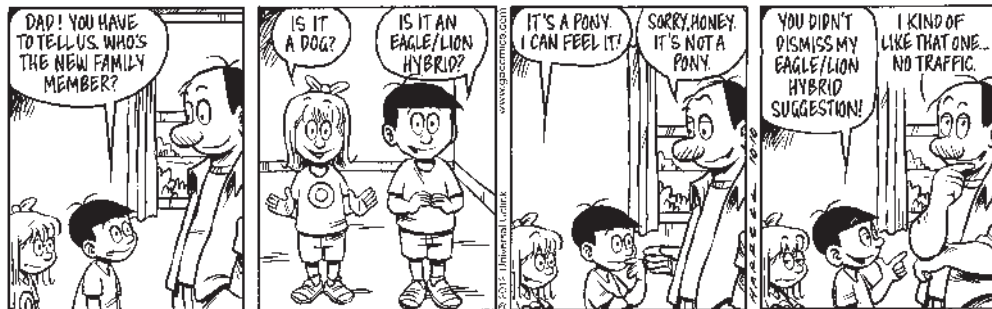


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Like a snail
5 Biblical verb suffix
8 Venomous vipers
12 Swearing-utterance
13 Extinct bird
14 Actress Perlman
15 Acolyte
17 Gruesome
18 More indigent
19 Runs off to wed
21 Soar
22 Croon
23 Possesses
26 Thither
28 Scratch-and-
31 Canyon phenomenon
33 Scale member
35 Great Lake
36 Mall unit
38 Wrong (Pref.)

DOWN

1 Cleanser
2 Composer
3 "Beetle Bailey"
4 Harbor structure
5 Early life forms
6 Also WW I
7 19th president
8 French forest region
9 2005 Steve Martin movie based on a novel he wrote
10 Father (Fr.)
11 Emulates Simon?
16 Depend (on)
20 Fleur-de-
23 "— a real nowhere man"
24 Do something
25 Vegas troupe member
27 — de plume
29 "A pox on thee!"
30 A handful
32 Folding art
34 Police methods
37 Right angle
39 Composition
42 Sill
44 Unstressed vowel
45 Luggage
46 Sandwich cookie
48 Last write-up
49 Campus quarters
50 Spud's buds
53 Rowing need

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	C	M	E	C	H	A	S	T	U	N
S	O	A	R	L	A	C	E	R	N	E
A	M	Y	G	R	A	N	T	A	I	D
P	A	S	A	S	K	S	N	O	O	T
H	I	P	N	A	H					
F	E	T	E	D	J	A	M	A	I	C
A	M	E	N	C	A	P	Y	O	U	R
Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	T	E	N	C
S	H	I	F	T	L	E	O	S	C	H
T	Y	R	O	L	I	V	T	Y	L	E
O	D	O	R	A	N	I	E	U	R	O
P	E	N	D	G	E	L	W	E	D	S

Yesterday's answer 10-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Dale Earnhardt Jr., 38; Mario Lopez, 39; Wendi McLendon-Covey, 43; Bradley Whitford, 53.

Happy Birthday: Focus on the positive and engage in creative endeavors. Learn from experience as well as from those skilled at something you want to pursue. A trip or physical move will do you good. Follow your basic instinct and avoid having regrets. Your numbers are 2, 7, 19, 22, 25, 34, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take control; make changes. Discussing your plans with your peers or boss will help you get a better perspective on how you can take a step in a direction that allows you to use your skills more efficiently and profitably. Expand your interests. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do your best to help others. A relationship with someone from a different background or with an unusual past will develop. Don't be too quick to agree to partner with someone without having all the facts and figures worked out beforehand. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't exaggerate or make promises you cannot keep. Someone will be looking for an excuse to make you look bad. Stick to what you know and do best, and don't presume to be something you are not. Abide by the rules. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take an interest in a hobby, activity or event that will introduce you to a different way of doing things or people who are different from

you. Love is in the stars. Partnerships will enhance your life. Strive for perfection. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Limitations and frustrations due to older or younger family members or a lack of funds will cause stress. You need to change your surroundings or do something different in order to get a new perspective on your life and what you want. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus and take care of your responsibilities. What you accomplish will impress someone who can help you advance and help you get revenge regarding someone who has done you an injustice in the past. Discipline and moderation will be required. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Readjust your way of thinking regarding your past, present and future prospects. You may need to change the way you do things in order to benefit the most from what you have to offer. Learn from your past in order to make better choices. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Creativity will be the key to your emotional well-being. Don't waste time on jealousy when you are capable of doing your own thing and doing it well. Spending quality time with someone who shares your interests will enhance your relationship. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Exploring different places, interests or people who are a little bit eccentric will help open up ideas that can lead to your own spiritual or philosophic growth. Don't let an insecure friend or lover lead you in the wrong direction. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on your finances and invest in your talents, skills and ideas. Conversations with people you respect or who work in a similar industry will help you expand your plans and raise issues you may not have considered in the past. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend time taking care of your interests. Expect others to meddle in your affairs if you are too open about your plans. Put more emphasis on home, family and how you can utilize your space to increase your income or lower your overhead. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Contracts, money, legal or medical matters can all be taken care of with confidence. Your discipline will impress others and entice a partnership that will help you get an endeavor up and running. A promise can be made. ★★★



Birthday Baby: You are observant, sensitive, proactive and productive. You welcome a challenge.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4	1	6				7	8
		8	1	2		3	9	
				9		4		
			4	1	7			
		9				1		
5	1		9				8	
1							2	
	7	4	2				1	
			8	7			4	

Difficulty Level ★★

10/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	5	1	6	2	7	4	9	8
4	8	7	3	9	1	2	6	5
9	6	2	4	5	8	1	3	7
5	4	9	1	8	2	3	7	6
8	1	6	7	3	4	9	5	2
7	2	3	5	6	9	8	1	4
6	9	8	2	1	5	7	4	3
1	7	5	8	4	3	6	2	9
2	3	4	9	7	6	5	8	1

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE BEACH BOYS ARE BACK

Solution: 14 letters

C	A	D	N	O	H	R	E	M	P	L	E	H	G	E
C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	N	A	I	C	N
S	H	R	E	M	M	U	S	B	D	W	R	I	O	B
C	T	A	I	L	O	V	E	L	A	L	N	S	A	Y
S	A	E	R	B	G	L	E	I	S	E	L	N	B	R
S	U	P	K	T	O	S	I	T	B	I	D	A	O	R
T	G	R	I	C	S	U	A	T	W	R	B	F	N	U
S	U	N	F	T	I	M	I	O	D	E	I	S	U	M
E	V	B	O	I	O	T	I	R	M	R	T	A	F	J
D	B	O	E	S	N	L	E	S	A	I	R	G	N	A
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Orioles slip past Yankees to even ALDS



BALTIMORE
(AP) —

Sometimes, postseason experience isn't all that important.

How else to explain Baltimore rookie Wei-Yin Chen outpitching playoff-tested Andy Pettitte to beat the New York Yankees in a game the Orioles couldn't afford to lose?

With Chen leading the way, the Orioles squeezed out a 3-2 victory Monday night to even their AL division series at one game apiece.

Chris Davis drove in two runs for the wild-card Orioles, who used the same formula that got them into the postseason for the first time in 15 years: a magnificent bullpen and an ability to win tight games. Baltimore was 29-9 in one-run decisions during the regular season and 74-0 when leading after seven innings.

Major league saves leader Jim Johnson, roughed up for five runs in a Game 1 loss, came back to pitch a perfect ninth to close it out.

"It's real easy, like I said last night, to trust Jim Johnson," Baltimore manager Buck Showalter said. "He's done it a few times for us. He's having a special year, a special year."

Afterward, Orioles owner Peter Angelos shook hands with almost every player in the jubilant clubhouse.

"It is great that he was in here," outfielder Adam Jones said. "Obviously it meant a lot to him as much as it did us and the fans. He doesn't come in here a lot. He takes care of business up there and we take care of it on the field. Hopefully, the next time I see him he will be holding a trophy."



New York Yankees' Ichiro Suzuki, right, of Japan, leaps past Baltimore Orioles catcher Matt Wieters to score a run on a double by Robinson Cano in the first inning of Game 2 of the American League division baseball series on Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in Baltimore. AP

The rest of the best-of-five series is at Yankee Stadium, beginning with Game 3 on Wednesday night. Hiroki Kuroda will start for AL East champion New York against rookie Miguel Gonzalez, who was 2-0 with a 2.63 ERA in two starts in the Bronx this season, striking out 17 and walking only one in 13 2-3 innings.

Baltimore won all three series at Yankee Stadium this year.

"You definitely don't want to go into New York in a five-

game series down two games. This is big—having the day off tomorrow, hopefully building some momentum, and we can take that into New York," Davis said.

Chen gave up two runs, one earned, and eight hits over 6 1-3 innings. The Taiwan native, who pitched previously in Japan, was 1-2 with a 5.25 ERA in four outings against New York this season, including two in September in which he yielded a total of 11 runs over 11 1-3 innings.

"Chen did a good job of keeping us in the game," Davis said. "To hold that offense to two runs is saying something, and we were able to get timely hits when we needed it."

And now, the playoff series is tied after the teams split 18 games during the regular season.

"It seemed like Baltimore and us have kind of gone back and forth all year and that's what we did here," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Chen left with a 3-2 lead,

Game 3 is Wednesday afternoon at Nationals Park, the first postseason contest in the nation's capital since the original Senators played the New York Giants in the 1933 World Series. Edwin Jackson starts for Washington against longtime Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter, who made only three starts during the regular season because of injury.

"Today, for us, was a must-win game," Beltran said.

The Cardinals seem to live for those. They lost the division series and NLCS openers last fall, then finished strong in the World Series after spotting Texas a 3-2 lead.

So, they're on familiar ground. And once again, as a wild card.

"We knew how big this game was for us," center fielder Jon Jay said. "We've seen it all year—when we are able to do that, we are pretty dangerous."

Bailey can follow no-hitter with playoff clincher

CINCINNATI (AP)—Homer Bailey played catch in the sun-splashed outfield at Great American Ball Park, his usual routine the day before a start. Nothing different at all, as far as the Texan let on.

"You guys," he said afterward, "it's just another game."

Uh-uh. Not buying it. Everyone knows the Cincinnati Reds pitcher has a chance to exorcise a lot of bad postseason history—or add to it—with his next start.

Less than two weeks after he threw the 15th no-hitter in the history of baseball's first professional franchise, the 26-year-old Bailey has a chance to add another career moment. He can complete a division-series sweep of the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday night.

Up 2-0 in the series, the Reds need one more victory to advance, with as many as three chances left at home. It'll be a breakthrough if they get it.

Cincinnati hasn't won a home playoff game in 17 years, a span of futility etched into the franchise's storied history. Everyone remembers the Big Red Machine winning back-to-back World Series in 1975-76. The 1990 Nasty Boys team swept Oakland to win another.

Since then? Little more than heartbreak. Got swept by Atlanta in the 1995 NL championship

and the bullpen made it stand up. Johnson retired Derek Jeter and Ichiro Suzuki on grounders and struck out Alex Rodriguez to end it in front of a rollicking crowd at Camden Yards.

Much earlier, Suzuki's deft dancing at the plate put the Yankees ahead.

The 40-year-old Pettitte, whose 19 wins and 43 starts are the most in postseason history, allowed three runs and seven hits in seven-plus innings.

"I thought he pitched a really, really good game," Girardi said. "I thought he had really good command of his fastball, his curveball, really all his pitches."

Pettitte came out of retirement before this season to pitch again in the playoffs, and although he was effective, Chen was better.

"It's a playoff game," Pettitte said. "If you give up too many runs, that number doesn't have to get too high until you know you're going to get a loss."

Pettitte, however, got little offensive backing. New York stranded 10 and went 2 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

Cardinals rout Nationals, tie NLDS

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Three hits and an excruciating loss one day, double-digit runs and a laughter the next. The St. Louis Cardinals have been that type of team all season.

The defending World Series champions tied their NL division series with Washington at one game apiece by doing what they do best—forgetting about what happened the day before and concentrating on the game at hand. They lost the division series and NLCS openers last year, and look how that turned out.

Carlos Beltran hit the last two of the Cardinals' four homers and St. Louis chased an ineffective Jordan Zimmermann early in a 12-4 rout of the Nationals on Monday.

"We know this offense has the potential to do this," Cardinals rookie manager Mike Ma-

they said. "It was nice to see this, and hopefully it becomes contagious and the guys just keep going."

Daniel Descalso and Allen Craig also went deep to help the Cardinals build a big lead that compensated for a two-inning start from an ailing Jaime Garcia. Craig hit his fifth career postseason homer and scored three times.

"If we get things going, we feel like we can carry the team," Craig said. "As you saw tonight, we put a lot of good swings on the ball and really drove the ball. It was a lot of fun."

Ryan Zimmerman and Adam LaRoche hit consecutive homers in the fifth for the Nationals, who head home for the remainder of the best-of-five series. But the NL East champions are without All-Star ace Stephen Strasburg,

shut down for the rest of the season early last month to protect his surgically repaired arm.

"I miss him not experiencing this with us and he misses not experiencing it with us," Nationals manager Davey Johnson said. "But we did the right thing, there's no question."

"He'd have been the guy that opened the series."

Garcia was taken out with a shoulder injury and sent for an MRI exam. The left-hander missed two months this season with shoulder fatigue.

"It just wasn't right the whole time. I had to come out of the game," Garcia said. "I don't know how it happened, I don't know when it happened."

"I'm just hoping it's not too bad, but at the same time you've just got to wait and see how it goes."

Their first shot at it will make major league history.

The Giants and Reds both had pitchers throw no-hitters this year—Matt Cain had a perfect game for San Francisco. When Bailey starts on Tuesday, it'll mark the first time two players that threw no-hitters in the regular season pitch on opposing teams in the same playoff series, according to STATS LLC.

The Reds put themselves in position for a sweep by overcoming the loss of ace Johnny Cueto to a bad back in the first inning of the opener, then pulling out a 5-2 win. They won 9-0 on Sunday night behind Bronson Arroyo's seven crisp innings, then tried to get a few hours of sleep on the overnight flight back to Ohio.

Foster runs for 152 yards as Texans top Jets



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

(AP)—Thanks to Arian Foster, the Houston Texans are still undefeated—but they very nearly let this one slip away.

Foster ran for 152 yards and a touchdown, and the Texans are 5-0 for the first time and defeated the New York Jets for the first time in team history, hanging on for a 23-17 victory Monday night.

With a chance to lead the Jets on a winning drive, Mark Sanchez was intercepted by Kareem Jackson on a pass that tipped off the hands of Jeff Cumberland with 1:51 remaining.

"You got to give yourself a chance to win and we did that tonight," Sanchez said.

The Texans (5-0) joined the Atlanta Falcons as the NFL's only teams without a loss.

"Arian stepped up and played huge," quarterback Matt Schaub said. "We're very excited to be 5-0 and get a win on the road."

The Jets (2-3) were heavy underdogs after coming off a 34-0 loss to San Francisco last week, but made a game of it. Backup quarterback Tim Tebow got the crowd fired up at times throughout the game, including running for a first down on a fake punt, but had little impact otherwise.

Houston overcame a 100-yard kickoff return by Joe McKnight that cut the Jets' deficit to 20-14.

Schaub was 14 of 28 for 209 yards and a touchdown to Owen Daniels, winning his ninth straight game—the longest active streak in the NFL—dating to last season. Daniels finished with four catches for 79 yards for the Texans, who have just their second five-game winning streak in team history.

"It's definitely our best start," Daniels said, "and a big part of that is it doesn't matter on this team about stats or individually what is going on. It's great to be a part of something like that."

The enthusiasm was tempered, though, by a left knee injury to star linebacker Brian Cushing that coach Gary Kubiak said he was "very concerned" about.

"I don't know what happened," Kubiak said. "They tell me he cut on a play and his foot might have got stuck in the turf."

Nick Folk's 21-yard field goal with 11:55 left made it 23-17, but the Jets appeared as though they would get more.

"I honestly thought we were going to drive down the field and score a touchdown" on the last drive," wide receiver Chaz Schilens said. "It's not going the right way."

Sanchez hit Cumberland for



New York Jets defensive back Ellis Lankster (26) tackles Houston Texans wide receiver Kevin Walter (83) during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in East Rutherford, N.J.

24 yards on first down, and then Jeremy Kerley for 36 yards two plays later. Then, Tebow came in and took the direct snap—with Sanchez lined up as a wide receiver—and rumbled up the middle for 13 yards to make it first-and-goal from the 3. The crowd at MetLife Stadium went wild, sensing a chance at Tebow's first touchdown since being acquired by New York in March.

Tebow stayed in but was stopped for no gain. Then, Sanchez—who has been under fire with many calling for Tebow to take his starting job—had a pass tipped by J.J. Watt and it was incomplete to Schilens in the end zone on third down.

Foster walked untouched into the end zone for a 13-yard touchdown to give the Texans a 14-7 lead with 11:11 left in the first half. He gained 42 yards on three straight carries on the 67-yard drive, and had 100 yards on the ground at halftime on just nine carries.

The Jets threatened late in the half, but Sanchez's pass was tipped by end J.J. Watt and went off Kerley to Brice McCain, who ran back the interception 86 yards before Kerley caught him at the New York 9.

Shayne Graham made a 27-yard field goal as the half ended to make it 17-7. He added a 42-yarder late in the third quarter to make it 20-7.

McKnight got the Jets right back into it with his 100-yard kickoff return—his second of his career—to cut the Texans' lead to 20-14 with 4:38 left in the third quarter. McKnight sped up the middle, cut to his left and ran out of a shoulder tackle attempt by DeVier Posey and dived into

the end zone.

New York attempted an on-side kick, but the ball went through Schilens' hands and Shiloh Keo recovered, giving the Texans the ball with good field position.

Schaub hit fullback James Casey for 30 yards to quiet the crowd, but the Jets' defense held the Texans to a 22-yard field goal with 13 seconds left in the quarter.

The Texans opened the game by scoring on an efficient 8-play, 85-yard drive capped by a 34-yard touchdown catch by a wide-open Daniels less than 4 minutes in. Daniels, who earlier gained 14 yards on a screen pass, got wide open behind the secondary as New York's safeties both bit on a play-action fake by Schaub.

New York then went three-and-out, an all-too-common series for the Jets this season—as chants of "Tee-boww! Tee-boww!" started after Sanchez's first incomplete pass on second down. Tebow made his first appearance on the Jets' fifth play from scrimmage and, to a wave of cheers, threw a pinpoint deep pass to newcomer Jason Hill. But the receiver dropped it, Tebow departed and Sanchez missed Clyde Gates on third down, bringing on a chorus of boos.

Jets coach Rex Ryan promised his defense would be sturdier than in last week's rout at the hands of San Francisco, and after Houston's scoring drive, it was. Cromartie stepped in front of Andre Johnson and picked off Schaub's poorly thrown pass on the Texans' third possession,

then gave the ball to his wife in the stands.

Four plays later, the Jets tied it for their first points in two weeks—a 27-yard TD catch by Cumberland.

Sanchez zipped a pretty pass to Clyde Gates on first down for a 27-yard gain on the scoring drive. After a 2-yard run by Bilal Powell and McKnight got 1 yard, Sanchez threw yet another terrific toss to Cumberland, who caught the ball

over Glover Quinn, bobbled it and tucked it in as he fell to the turf in the end zone to tie it at 7 with 4:07 left in the opening quarter.

Tebow got the crowd going when the Jets went for it on fourth-and-1 at their 24 on the first play of the second quarter. The do-it-all backup quarterback took the snap and ran off left tackle for 3 yards. But the drive fizzled with three straight incompletions by Sanchez.

Cardinals' Williams out for season due to injury

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—The Arizona Cardinals' already embattled ground game has taken a severe blow with the announcement that running back Ryan Williams is out for the season with a left shoulder injury that will require surgery.

The Cardinals already are without Beanie Wells until at least Thanksgiving weekend because of a severe turf toe injury.

The hard-luck Williams missed all of his rookie season a year ago with a torn patella tendon. He injured his shoulder on a hard hit during last Thursday night's loss at St. Louis.

The injury leaves Arizona with running backs LaRod Stephens-Howling, William Powell and Alfonso Smith. Stephens-Howling missed the last two weeks with a hip flexor.

The Cardinals are 4-1 despite their virtual lack of any ground game. They rank 31st out of 32 NFL teams in yards rushing per game at 63.4. Only Oakland's 60.8 is worse.

Coach Ken Whisenhunt

revealed the extent of the injury in his brief meeting with reporters following the team's light workout on Monday.

"The timetable for recovery is probably three months, so that puts him out for the season," Whisenhunt said.

Asked if the team would look to bring in a running back from elsewhere, he said, "We'll look and see."

"I feel good about the guys that we've got," the coach said. "We're always going to look to get better at every position. If that opportunity is there, then we'll certainly try to act on it."

Arizona opened the season believing that its ground game would be a strength with Wells and Williams providing a solid 1-2 punch. Now that punch is down to 0-0.

"That's the NFL," Whisenhunt said. "Teams have to fight through adversity and keep going. We've done a good job of that the first five weeks of the season, and now we've got another challenge, but that's OK. We'll work through it."

Nash jells quickly with Bryant in Lakers debut



FRESNO, Calif.—Steve Nash drove into the lane Sunday night, and just like in all those games from his days with the Phoenix Suns, he immediately drew a crowd. Three Golden State Warriors defenders collapsed on Nash, and suddenly, in the corner of Nash's eye, was Kobe Bryant, across the floor, wide open and waving. Nash rifled a pass to Bryant, who rose up and buried a 3-pointer.

Steve Nash had five points and three assists in his preseason debut with the Lakers. Yes, it was just a preseason game for these new-look Los Angeles Lakers. But the first Nash-to-Bryant assist also showed all the promise that could await them

this season.

"He just makes the game easy," Bryant said later of his new point guard. "It's a joy for me. I've had to facilitate and score my entire career. I don't have to do that now and I'm pretty happy about it."

In Nash's first game with the Lakers, he and Bryant looked comfortable from the opening tip. The Lakers hope their relationship only continues to improve. In previous seasons, the Lakers too often watched as Bryant dribbled out the shot clock before taking a tough, contested shot. Nash also should be able to keep L.A.'s big men happy—or at least happier than they were when the offense ran only through Bryant's hands. Bryant can

now spend his energy trying to get open, knowing that if he does, Nash will find him.

Few, if any, point guards have commanded Bryant's respect the way Nash can. Bryant also knows it's in the Lakers—and his—best interest to relinquish some control of the offense.

"He's a great all-around player," Bryant said. "He just picks his spots. He can still score no matter what the defense is going to give him. If [the defense] is not going to be honest, he's going to make them pay."

Bryant said he has so much confidence in Nash that he's going to leave it to Nash to "manage the team."

"He is always going to be Kobe," said Nash, who had

five points and three assists in 14 minutes in the Lakers' 110-83 loss to the Warriors. "That's just his DNA. But at the same time he's willing to relinquish a little bit for the betterment of the group."

Dwight Howard sat out the Lakers' first preseason game as he recovers from back surgery. New Lakers center Dwight Howard sat out the game as he continues to make progress in his recovery from offseason back surgery. Rookie Robert Sacre, the last pick of this year's NBA draft, started in Howard's place and scored six points. Nash zipped one pass to Sacre through a defender's legs. Nash, Lakers coach Mike Brown said, made Sacre look like a third-year pro.



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Foster runs for 152 yards as Texans top Jets
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CFL Sharks gear up for bout vs PH Punishers



The Sharks' offense and defense conduct scrimmage plays against each other during last Monday's practice session held at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Football League's Sharks have stepped it up in practice recently, as they prepare for the highly anticipated road match against the Philippine Punishers on Nov. 10 in Manila.

The Sharks are supposed to host the Punishers here on Saipan to start a three-game exhibition series, but unfortu-

nately travel difficulties prevented the Philippine players from making it over.

In any case, the November

date is still on as well as the big home game against a select group from Guam's Miller Lite Football League

More players have been showing up to practices dressed in pads around the turn of the month. Several players wear helmets and shoulder pads, however there are still more in need of proper foot-wear and leg pads.

The Sharks are consist of a primary core of just under 30 players with another 15 or so who fade in and out.



The Sharks' practices have recently been moved to Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield on weekdays, starting at 4:30pm, while Saturday morning sessions are still being held at the Airport Field until 1pm.

Coaching the group is Tai Doram, who has achieved some success on the high school and middle school levels back in his home state of Kentucky.

Doram has multiple middle school and a few junior varsity

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Zhaila's advances, Gualo Rai nears Final Four stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Zhaila's All-Starz barged into the semi-finals of the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League, while Gualo Rai is a quarter away from following suit.

Zhaila's All-Starz eliminated LD Prime, 95-82, in

last Wednesday's first playoff game at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court to book the first semis ticket, while Gualo Rai led Blue Haus, 59-47, in the rained-out second game.

Bryan Ajoste, Jason Bahillo, and Brian Chan delivered the goods for Zhaila's, as they combined for more than half of the team's total production with their 66 points. Ajoste had

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gualo Rai's Jun Estolas goes up for a foul-baiting move against Blue Haus' Mel Capalad during the third quarter of their rain-suspended playoff game in the DLX caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

White attends FISU meeting in Russia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White represented the CNMI in the Extraordinary General Assembly of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) held late last month in Kazan, Russia.

According to FISU's website, White was one of the officials from the 108 member-countries that attended the forum, which aimed at introducing amendments to the FISU Constitution,
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NMSA president Michael White, third row, joins the Extraordinary General Assembly of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) held last month in Kazan, Russia.

WWW.FISU.NET

Stephens boosts bid for RGA October Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Diwain Stephens topped the Refaluwash Golf Association October Ace qualifying tournament last Saturday to move one step away from clinching this month's title.

Stephens survived the tough weather at the Kingfisher Golf Links and carded a net 68 to prevail against 10 others and set the score to beat in RGA's next tournament later this month. If no RGA member scores better than 68 in the Oct. 27 competition, also at Kingfisher, Stephens gets to keep the Octo-

ber plum and qualifies for the RGA Club Championships set for this December.

Stephens will be able to join early qualifiers and month winners Ki Soo Kim (January), Tony Rogolifoi (February), Jordan Kosam (March), Joe Saures (April), Lawrence Camacho Jr. (May), Tars Olopai (June), Ray Tigilau (July), Ahn Hun Jin (August), and Manny Mangarero (September).

Stephens strengthened his chances for the October Ace title after a good start in last weekend's qualifier, as he drilled a 33 on the front nine. He began the round with a birdie on the par-5

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